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Algeria

Former President Ben Bella Reported in Iraq

LD271122/890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Citing a reliable source in the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, EL KHABAR reported that Ahmed Ben Bella is currently in Iraq. The paper added that the former president arrived in Baghdad from Geneva.

Islamic Front Denies Change in Position on Gulf

JN2811111290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Algiers, 28 Nov (INA)—Algerian Islamic Salvation Front Leader Shaykh Abassi Madani has refuted reports published by some newspapers connected with the betrayer of the two holy mosques and the Croesus of Kuwait to the effect that the Islamic Front has changed its position on the Gulf developments, and that it now supports Saudi rulers and does not object to seeking the assistance of the American forces.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Algiers, Shaykh Abassi Madani stressed that the Islamic Front's opinion is firm, has not changed, and will not change, and that the statements carried by some news media can only be interpreted as lies, slander, and forging of facts. He added: We are for a peaceful solution that is decided by the Arabs themselves, and not for a solution imposed by foreign forces. The presence of these forces will not contribute to the solution, but will further complicate the issue. He said that America and its allies are now trying to seize the opportunity to attack and fragment the Arabs. However, our confidence in God is high and we hope that the solution will not be sought outside the Arab framework.

Shaykh Abassi Madani stressed that Iraq's power is for all the Arabs and that we should safeguard it in the hands of the Arabs and Muslims to defend their interests.

Concluding his statement, he hailed President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people, hoping that peace would prevail in the entire region so that it can enjoy brotherhood, amity, and peace.

Egypt

Mubarak Reportedly Praises Killer of Kahana

NC2711105390 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 26 Nov 90 p 11

[Text] During his meeting with a group of special advisers on Thursday [22 November], Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expressed his great admiration for Egyptian youth Sayyid Nusayr who killed Kakh Movement leader Meir Kahana in New York. President Mubarak was cited as saying that this youth has saved the Arabs from the despicable personality of Kahana who had caused a lot of trouble and problems for the Palestinians inside the occupied territories.

At the end of the meeting President Mubarak said smiling: "I hope that the rest in Israel will meet the same fate." By this he was referring to the members of the Israeli Government. When Mubarak was told that the security organs conducted lengthy interrogations of Nusayr's family and that they were harassed by intelligence and state security men, he ordered on Thursday that interrogations be halted immediately. He even instructed the security men to provide the family members with protection if they asked for it, lest they be harmed by some Kakh Movement members or Jewish extremists who might infilitrate into Egypt seeking revenge.

Mubarak rebuked the Egyptian security organs for the interrogations, saying: The killing took place in the United States and the killer left Egypt 10 years ago. Therefore, what wrong has his family in Egypt committed?

Soldier Charged With Killing Israelis Questioned

JN2711185890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] The Suez Military court has ordered that Egyptian soldier Ayman Muhammad Hasan be incarcerated for 15 days pending the investigation of the recent killing of four Israelis and the wounding of 27 others.

Interrogation of the Egyptian soldier reveals that his only motive to commit the killings was purely nationalistic. The defendant said that he had recently followed the aggressive practices of Israeli citizens and government against Palestinians in the occupied territory, and was was greatly distressed after the Jews perpetrated the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre. He resolved to carry out his action a few days after the al-Aqsa massacre but was seeking the opportune moment.

He said that he had recently observed Israeli vehicles passing near the border toward an air base and carrying Israelis who looked as if they wanted to inflict further harm and torture on the Palestinians. Therefore, he decided to take revenge.

During interrogation—which the Egyptian authorities continue to keep secret—the soldier said his feelings of Arabism and collective human sentiments would prompt anybody to commit such actions, regardless of the sacrifices.

The soldier denied any connection with Palestinian organizations inside or outside the occupied territories and said: My patriotism and love for Palestine were the only motive behind my action. He denied any political affiliation, saying: My basic affiliation is with Egypt and the Arab homeland before anything else.

He said he had wished to go and fight with the Palestinians against the oppression to which they are subjected

and regretted the fact that his shots killed only four of the Israelis, adding that his aim was to kill as many of them as possible.

Party Leaders Discuss Election Issues

NDP's Wali

NC2711211990

[Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1400 GMT on 26 November carries a 20-minute interview with Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), deputy prime minister, and minister of agriculture and land reclamation. Wali begins by noting the NDP government's economic reforms carried out over the past four years and its "tremendous efforts" to "promote self-reliance, consolidate social justice, decrease the budget deficit, and collect tax revenue which had gone uncollected." Wali adds that the measures decided on following talks with the IMF and World Bank did impose burdens on some citizens, but says the government intends to maintain subsidies, especially the bread subsidy, to protect low-income groups.

Wali then refers to the cancellation of Egypt's military debt to the United States and its debts to some Arab countries, adding that talks are now under way on the cancellation of a $3.8 billion debt to France. The funds thus freed will be used at home and help "achieve prosperity in the coming years."

Continuing his discussion of the NDP's economic policy, Wali says the party is committed to protecting public, private, and cooperative ownership in accordance with the Constitution. He adds that the government has encouraged the private sector in the fields of tourism, agriculture, and electricity. He notes the increase in the rate of exports in oil and agriculture, which have helped reduce the budget deficit, and the growth in domestic manufacturing. On unemployment, Wali says the party has some solutions for this problem—such as land-reclamation projects, the distribution of land to graduates, and the promotion of cottage industries and small and light industries—but that the problem also requires the attention of local authorities. He notes that Egypt is cooperating with Syria, Libya, and Sudan on grain cultivation projects, adding that there is scope for further economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries which would give Egyptians the opportunity to work in these countries.

On returnees from Iraq and Kuwait, Wali says that former government employees will get their jobs back in all ministries. The World Bank will provide funds to help other returnees find jobs in their fields.

Turning to foreign policy, Wali stresses the government's "principled stand" on regional and international issues. Following the detente between the United States and the Soviet Union, the government established "balanced relations with the two parties" and maintains "good relations with all world countries." On the Gulf crisis, Wali stresses that President Mubarak adopted a decisive stand on the issue and that the NDP condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait right from the start. He adds that the Arab summit's decision to send troops to the Gulf and the Egyptian leadership's "swift" response prevented Iraq from making incursions into neighboring countries.

Wali concludes by urging all citizens to fulfill their national duty by voting in the elections.

Greens' Rajab, Others

NC2711202190

[Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1405 GMT on 24 November continues its series of interviews with leaders of the political parties participating in the 29 November assembly elections with a 20-minute interview with Dr. Hasan Rajab, leader of the Greens Party.

Noting that his party will field 18 candidates in an equal number of constituencies, Rajab says that his party attracted "a very large number of people from the educated class" when it was first established, and is now working on broadening its popular base to enable it to contest more seats in future elections.

Questioned on his party's philosophy and goals, Rajab notes that the party was established after the Chernobyl disaster on the initiative of 'Abd al-Salam Diwud. He goes on to say that the party's priority goal is "the establishment of a ministry of the environment which would protect the environment and prevent the pollution of the water, the land, and the atmosphere." He also calls on the government to bring Egyptians working abroad home so that their assets and expertise can be put to use.

At 1700 GMT on 24 November the station carries a continuation of its interview with Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, first broadcast on 21 November. In the second part of the interview, Muhyi-al-Din discusses his party's foreign policy and some aspects of its economic and social programs.

On the Gulf issue, he says that his party rejects the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait, but "we want to avoid a war in the region. As an Arab nation it is in our interests that no war takes place." He adds that the only peaceful way out is for Iraq to "accept the principle of a complete withdrawal from Kuwait and for the Kuwaiti people to have the right to choose their government." He calls for taking advantage of the opportunity presented by the international consensus rejecting the Iraqi aggression to "mobilize international public opinion to reject the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Therefore, we support the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East to tackle the Gulf problem first and then proceed to other issues. We say that the Palestinian issue is the top priority and must remain at the

center of attention, especially in view of the dangers posed by the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. These dangers threaten Egypt as well as Palestine."

Turning to his party's economic and social program, he calls for free medical care, rent control, housing programs, and support for cooperative banks to assist farmers. He also calls for measures to promote the welfare of Egyptian women and young people.

At 1400 GMT on 25 November, the station carries a continuation of its interview with Unionist Democratic Party leader 'Abd-al-Munim Turk first broadcast on 21 November. In the second part of the interview Turk discusses his party's economic policy. He calls for the removal of "socialist applications which are bound to impede a free economy," and says that savings alone will not solve the country's economic problems. Egypt must attract foreign investment, particularly Arab investment, but "investors will not come to Egypt if we keep saying that the public sector is the cornerstone of the economy." He says that his party's priority is the removal of all laws and provisions that impede economic development. He notes: "We believe we must stop the war against the private sector and declare war on red tape, impediments, and bureaucracy."

At 1700 GMT on 25 November the station carries a continuation of its interview with al-Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabbahi 'Awadallah, first carried on 22 November. In the second part of the interview 'Awadallah stresses that the security of Arab and Muslim countries must be the top priority in the coming stage. The party believes that two things must be done if security is to be established. First, there is "the need to establish an Arab-Muslim alliance to defend the people and nations of the region. This alliance will be financed by all Arab and Muslim countries and should be headquartered in Cairo." Second, there is a need "to establish the Islam ruling system in the region. The Islamic system we seek is contemporary political-Islamic democracy."

Questioned on his party's priorities, 'Awadallah says: "The issue of salaries and prices is the real challenge for future governments." He emphasizes that "government expenditures must be rationalized" and that "tax and custom exemptions that waste hundreds of millions of pounds must be reconsidered." He says that a comprehensive strategy is needed to deal with unemployment, and calls for creating job opportunities by exanding small-scale industries using local resources.

Turning to national security and foreign relations, 'Awadallah calls for modernizing the Armed Forces, diversifying the country's sources of weapons, and supporting the domestic manufacture of military materiel. He also calls for supporting the Arab League, the Palestinian struggle for statehood, and liberation movements; for maintaining balanced relations with foreign countries; and for bolstering ties with the Muslim world.

NDP Refutes Wafd Election Stance Comment

PM2811121890 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
21 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "National Party Assistant Secretary General Affirms Untruth of Statements Attributed to Him about Wafd's Position"]

[Text] Kamal al-Shadhili, assistant secretary general of the National Democratic Party, has affirmed the untruth of the statements attributed to him on AL-AHRAM's People's Interests page last Friday and by the MAYU newspaper the day before yesterday. Both newspapers attributed to Kamal al-Shadhili statements about the Wafd's decision to boycott the elections in which he said that the Wafd had nominated 150 members and dismissed only 22 of them.

Contacted by AL-WAFD yesterday, Kamal al-Shadhili emphasized that he had spoken about the subject at an election rally and had actually said: "The Wafd Party is the only one that has adhered to the boycott decision. It has dismissed 25 of its members who violated the party's decision and decided to run for the elections." Kamal al-Shadhili attributed the inaccuracy in the mentioned number of those dismissed to the fact that he had not read all the names of those dismissed, which AL-WAFD published twice. Al-Shadhili also said in his statement that the great majority of dissident Wafd candidates are not leading party members.

Government Reportedly To 'Allocate' Assembly Seats

PM2811091590 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
21 Nov 90 pp 1-2

[Report by 'Isam al-Din Rif'at: "Government To Grant Independent Candidates and Small Parties 60 Seats"]

[Text] Alexandria—AL-WAFD has learned that the government intends to allocate 60 of the next People's Assembly seats to the leaderships of the small parties participating in the elections. It has been agreed between the National [Democratic] Party [NDP] and the government to allocate 20 seats to the small parties and to grant the [National Progressive Unionist] Grouping most of these seats for the first time. It has also been agreed to grant two seats to each of the Ummah Party, the Unionist Party, the Misr al-Fatah Party, and the Green Party, allocating the other seats to dissident candidates of the parties which have boycotted the elections.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the Interior Ministry has decided to adopt a negative attitude on the day of the elections and to allow NDP candidates and their representatives to rig the elections, namely by preventing the rival candidates' representatives from entering the ballot centers or attending the voting process. A serious study by a security quarter affirms that the turnout will not exceed 10 percent in the governorates' major cities and 30 percent in the villages and the countryside.

During his meeting with Alexandria candidates, NDP Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali said that he was not concerned about the election results. He urged his candidates to pay attention to the election campaign and the attack on the party's candidates by the party's dissident candidates. Dr. Wali said: What happens on the election day is what matters. What happens before or after is not important!! The morale of the party's candidates was boosted following their meeting with Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, which dealt with developments in the violent campaigns launched by independent candidates against them.

'No Place' for Saddam After Gulf Crisis Ends

NC2811073390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—The AL-AKHBAR newspaper stresses that the Gulf problem is no longer just one involving Iraq's occupation of Kuwait or the need for its withdrawal, but rather it has become the problem of Saddam Husayn whose continued stay in power is no longer considered and whose case has already been decided.

In its editorial today, the paper says Saddam Husayn made an unforgivable mistake by showing all of his cards and arrogantly and boastfully declaring that he possesses chemical, biological, and perhaps nuclear weapons. By doing this he has stripped himself of all justification and protection and has given his opponents a reason to implement procedures to fully eliminate this threat that hangs over their heads.

The paper emphasizes that regardless of the outcome of this crisis, there will be no place left for Saddam Husayn on the world map after the predicament he created in a moment of thoughtlessness is over.

The paper notes that Saddam Husayn's very knowledge of this indisputable fact should be enough for him to try and do everything to survive and emerge safely from the trap he has set for himself—this in order that Saddam does not become its first victim and so that he might be saved from the terrible end that awaits him after the crisis ends, whether by peace or by war.

Al-Majid Issues Message on Palestinian Solidarity

NC2711202390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Israel should understand that the current Gulf crisis has not diverted attention from the main cause of tension in the region which is Israel's continuing occupation of the Arab territories and the increased suffering of the Palestinian people living under that occupation.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reiterated Egypt's view that stability cannot be attained in this part of the world until a just and comprehensive settlement is found to the Palestinian issue. Such a settlement should be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, on guarantees enabling all countries in the region to live in peace and security, and on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza.

This came in a message addressed to a ceremony held today at the Higher Council for Youth and Sports to commemorate the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. The message was read by Ambassador Munir Zahran, head of the international organizations desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Prime Minister Stresses Commitment to Democracy

NC2711194190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has reiterated the government's commitment to democracy and freedom of speech. He said that the government has no objection to any democratic expression of opinion as long as it does not compromise security or stability. Democracy, he added, is the only solution to our problems.

Speaking at an election rally in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis, Dr. Sidqi said that democracies are based on freedom of opinion for the public and on decision-making by the majority.

Dr. Sidqi said that the government, and particularly President Husni Mubarak, were eager to see the opposition take part in the elections to fortify democracy in the country and give voice to all opinions and leanings. Dr. Sidqi said that the participation of independent candidates contributes to the representation of all political trends.

Romanian Envoy Discusses Debt, Jewish Migration

NC2711165990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1214 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Romanian Ambassador in Cairo Ion Angelescu has praised the excellent Egyptian-Romanian relations in various fields.

At a news conference today, he said the volume of trade between the two countries last year amounted to $248 million. He added that this figure will increase in the future as the two sides are determined to bolster trade and economic ties. Furthermore, contacts are under way to settle Egypt's debts to Romania which total $100 million through the export of Egyptian goods.

Commenting on Romania's stand on the Gulf crisis, he noted that his country was the UN Security Council president when the crisis broke out. During our tenure, more than five resolutions were passed and we had constant consultations with the United States to implement the resolution concerning economic sanctions, the ambassador said.

Ambassador Angelescu said that his country denounces the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, advocates a peaceful solution and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government, and will continue to cooperate with international efforts to bring peace to the Gulf region.

The Romanian ambassador said that his country supports President Husni Mubarak's call for a peaceful solution to the crisis, as war will be catastrophic for all and must be avoided.

Concerning the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Angelescu said that his country has normal diplomatic ties with Palestine and supports the Palestinians' right to self-determination and an independent state. Romania, he said, is opposed to the occupation of the Arab territories, to any geographic changes, and to terrorist acts regardless of who commits them.

Asked about the migration of Soviet Jews, Angelescu said that Romania has no agreement with any country to guarantee the transit of Soviet Jews across Romania or their transfer by air to Israel. There have been proposals in this regard, he said, but these were rejected. Whenever an individual comes and asks to travel, we allow him to do so, but we do not grant the same permission to groups, the ambassador said.

Morocco

King Orders Dismissed Public Employees Reinstated

LD2711135490 Rabat MAP in English 1314 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 27 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco ordered the reintegration of all civil servants and agents of the civil service and the public sector who were dismissed or suspended. The decision was announced Monday at the end of a cabinet council meeting.

Prime Minister Azeddine Laraki informed cabinet members of the decision and said that the civil servants previously reintegrated will get wages as of the date of their reintegration.

The council had heard a paper by the ministerial commission in charge of dialogue with trade union on the results of the commission's action started in this respect since last April.

The 'Confederation Democratique du Travail' and the 'Union General Des Travailleurs Marocains' called last weekend for a general strike without appointing the date of the strike. The two trade unions blame the government for having suspended dialogue.

A communique released at the end of the council's meeting said the government would open dialogue with all the economic, social, professional and other parties and with urban and rural councils in a democratic move to solve pending problems. The government will draw up a timetable for its activities, talks and movements throughout the country.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Sends Message to Saddam Husayn

EA2711201090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Nov (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has addressed a message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in connection with the current developments in the Gulf crisis. Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul summoned the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Khartoum today and charged him with delivering Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's message to President Saddam Husayn.

SPLA Reportedly Captures Western Equatoria

EA2711174090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Excerpts] With the fall of Yambio and Nzara, the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] has in effect captured the whole of Western Equatoria within the last seven days of very heavy fighting.

It is worth mentioning that on 20 November 1990, the SPLA captured Bahr Na'am. Two days later on 23 November 1990 [as heard], the SPLA captured Ibba and another two days later, on 25 November 1990, the SPLA captured Yambio and Nzara, all these in Western Equatoria. By this, the Bright Star Campaign commander here warns the garrisons of Maridi and Yei to appreciate their own respective situations and evacuate immediately. [passage omitted]

The Bright Star Campaign commander also here warns the remnants of Yambio and Nzara that the Bright Star Campaign forces have been informed by the friendly Azande population that you have fled to Ezo on the Central African Republic border. The Bright Star Campaign commander said that the SPLA commando forces were advancing on Ezo and he advised the remnants of Yambio and Nzara to make the correct decision and quickly. As for Juba, there was no comment.

Following these SPLA victories in Western Equatoria, the SPLA/SPLM [SPLA/Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, appealed to all the platoons of the Sudanese Revolution in the National Democratic Alliance, in the parties, and to that very dynamic and decisive soldier of the intifadah, the shari—street—and to all SPLA and internal cells to tighten all the efforts to bring to a quick end this primitive and odious regime of the National Islamic Front so that—as in his words—we put to a quick end to the suffering and bewilderment of the Sudanese people to usher in a

dynamic Sudanese renaissance. This is the time. Al-Bashir's junta must not see another April, stressed the SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief.

The SPLM/SPLA commander in chief also takes this opportunity to salute, greet, thank and congratulate the population of Western Equatoria for this momentous victory and for the assistance SPLA soldiers have received from citizens of Western Equatoria. The chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, assured the people of Western Equatoria now in peace that the SPLM/SPLA is a people's movement that belongs to all the Sudanese people. It belongs 100 percent to the people of Western Equatoria. All chiefs, police, prisons, and game wardens and former old Sudan Government officials that may be afraid or uncertain are here assured that this is your own movement. Take it as your own and benefit from it. All are asked to report to the civil-military administration that is now being set up in the area so that they fully participate in the affairs of their movement and the new Sudan. There is nothing to wait for. The SPLA is a permanent and a new force that has mutated out of the Sudanese sociopolitical situation. The SPLA has come to stay, concluded the SPLM/SPLA chairman and commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior.

Rebel Radio Says War 'Flaring' in Darfur

EA2711203890 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] War is flaring within Darfur because of the government's policies and its intervention in the neighboring states which shifted the war into Darfur. Brigadier [as heard] 'Umar al-Bashir has denied that battles in which foreign forces are participating are taking place in Darfur, but arrivals from Darfur and eyewitnesses say the battles are still continuing and might soon spread to some towns of the region which have been safe from this war so far.

Rebel Radio Reports NIF Training Rebels

EA2711204290 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The U.S. State Department issued a statement last week warning its nationals against going to Sudan and advising U.S. citizens residing in Sudan to leave. The U.S. State Department said political and security conditions in Sudan were unstable because the disturbances were imminent. The U.S. State Department also advised U.S. citizens to take precautions and be on guard against acts of terrorism if war breaks out in the Gulf.

It has been confirmed that the government of the soldiers of the National Islamic Front [NIF] is training Muslim brotherhood extremist terrorist elements from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and others in eastern Sudan at Arusah Village and the (Kirsabu) Base.

Accusations are being made regarding the assassination of Riv'at al-Mahjub. The Egyptian magazine, ROSE AL-YOUSUF has reported that the elements which implemented the operation had been trained in Sudan. The Egyptian authorities recently seized quantities of arms smuggled by the Sudanese military authorities in Egypt for the extremist groups there.

The U.S. State Department's warning coincides with the British ambassador's direct warning calling on British citizens to leave Sudan for the same reasons. The majority of them have left Sudan, including professors whose contracts in Sudan were recently terminated by the British Government.

Tunisia

President, Saudi Interior Minister Discuss Gulf

LD2611205690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Tunisian President His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received at the presidential palace in Carthage the [Saudi] Minister of Interior, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The meeting was attended by the Kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia, Ibrahim Sa'd Ibrahim.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said that he conveyed a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to his brother, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, concerning bilateral relations, the tragic situation in our region, the Iraqi occupation of sisterly Kuwait, the Kingdom's determination to defend itself by all means, and the Kingdom's stance based on two points: complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, the return of the Kuwaiti people to their homeland, and the safeguarding of its independence under their leadership, represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his heir apparent, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah; and the Kingdom's right to defend itself and seek help from the forces of brotherly Arab and Islamic and friendly countries.

In a press statement after the meeting, his royal highness said that this stance has been declared repeatedly by the custodian of the two holy mosques and by all Saudi officials, and it is the Saudi people's stance. His Royal Highness Prince Nayif added: I found total understanding of that stance from his excellency the president. His excellency stressed that this stance was identical to that of Tunisia which is insisting that the state of affairs in Kuwait must be restored to what it was before 2 August, with Kuwait's full independence under its leadership, represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and of his heir apparent, and the Kingdom's full right to defend itself and seek the help of brotherly Arab and Islamic and friendly forces. He fully supports the Kingdom in that stance. His royal highness added: I found full understanding in that regard. His royal highness the interior minister stressed that the Iraqi regime's leader must bear full responsibility for

detonating the current crisis by invading the State of Kuwait. He said that responsibility for reaching a solution to end the current crisis should be borne by Saddam Husayn. He said: This matter is up to Saddam Husayn, because he is the one who lit the fire and he continues to keep it alight. He must extinguish the fire so that matters will be put right. The return to justice is good. His royal highness added: The extinguishing of the fire that is alight in our region is a matter that requires united efforts and good offices to avert the evils of confrontation which is not wanted by anyone. However, it cannot be avoided unless Saddam Husayn returns to practical reality, withdraws from Kuwait, restores the status quo ante, and removes the threat to the Kingdom and the Gulf countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz concluded: As we know, efforts have been made by Arab leaders, Arab, Islamic, and international delegations, and Arab and Islamic organizations, but so far we have not heard any response from Iraq to any of these efforts.

The interior minister, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, left Tunis today after a one-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by the Tunisian interior minister, Abdelhamid Escheikh, the Kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia, Ibrahim Sa'd Ibrahim, senior Tunisian Interior Ministry officials, and members of the Kingdom's embassy in Tunis.

Bahrain

Deputy Amir Receives UK Parliamentary Delegation

JN2611173090 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 90

Manama, Nov 26 (GNA)—The deputy of H.H [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah received chairman and members of the Defence Committee at the British House of Commons, currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting discussed cooperation between Bahrain and the United Kingdom, the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region and efforts exerted to drive out the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Present were, the minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, the head of the crown prince's court Shaykh Khalid Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah and the British charge d'affaires to Bahrain Innes Rae.

Amir Receives Message From Yugoslav President

JN2511102490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a message from Yugoslav President Dr. Borisav Jovic.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah received the message during his meeting with Yugoslav Economy Minister [title as received] Branimir Pajkovic shortly before the latter's departure earlier today.

Kuwait

AL-ANBA' Views Bush Visit to Europe, Mideast

'Crucial Decision' Said Closer

PM2611184190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Yield of Bush Tour"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] The final stop of U.S. President Bush's tour represents the most important and serious phase in this stage. The tour's serious stop was represented yesterday by President Bush's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his meeting with [Kuwaiti Amir] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, his meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and his meeting with U.S. forces at the front. The tour will be concluded today and tomorrow with the U.S. President's visit to Egypt, where he will meet with President Husni Mubarak, and his meeting with Syrian Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva.

The final part of the U.S. President's tour acquaints him fully and at firsthand with the Gulf crisis' theater of operations. It also enables him to hold direct discussions and talks with the principal parties to that vital and fateful issue, thus providing him with the full picture that will enable him to make the right and crucial decision also at the right and crucial time.

By the end of that tour the U.S. President and his advisers will have all the cards before them. This is in addition to all the options and the mechanism of their implementation.

And without going into the details and the side aspects, there are a number of considerations which must preoccupy the U.S. Administration in this crucial stage? The first of these considerations is the fact that the United States—and President Bush in particular—shoulders historic responsibility vis-a-vis the resolution of the Gulf crisis. The United State is now the sole world leader—a status that imposes on it the responsibility for strengthening the pillars of world peace and perpetuating its principles, especially as the first of these principles is to reject aggression and punish the aggressor. Add to this the fact that President Bush pledged to his people and the world the need to secure an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, restore legitimacy, and force the ruler of Baghdad to submit to the world's will under a new framework based on international detente.

The second of these considerations is that the United States, like the entire world, has strategic, serious, and prime interests in the Gulf region which cannot be left exposed to the Iraqi tyrant's threats, aggressive delusions, and expansionist dreams.

As for the third consideration, it is that, despite the entire world's desire for the peaceful option, the dictator of Baghdad insists on beating the drums of war and closing all doors to peace. Thus, and so long as the international community is eager to implement its resolutions, the other options must be given priority, because one cannot wait forever or indefinitely.

Regarding the final and most important consideration, time is an important factor in the Gulf crisis. In fact it is the most important of all the factors combined. Time is what the tyrant of Baghdad is banking on in order to try to impose his occupation as the new status quo. Time also means further Iraqi repression against our kinfolk inside occupied Kuwait and further destruction and ruin for its installations and cultural institutions. And time may also open the door to loopholes, differences, and interpretations within the international alliance front itself.

With the conclusion of the U.S. President's historic tour tomorrow he will have reached the end of the matter, and after that he will make his crucial decision for which the entire world, including us, is waiting.

'Decisive Chapter' in Crisis

PM2811103990 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 24 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Next Decisive Steps"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] And now, what next?

U.S. President Bush has concluded his eventful tour during which, one could say, he met with the world leaders in general, and with the region's leaders in particular, and discussed with them details of the various aspects of the Gulf crisis and future steps to settle and resolve it, with some concentration on all possibilities and all options.

Although it is difficult to accurately discern all the results of the U.S. President's tour, especially as it ended only a matter of hours ago, there certainly are three general results derived from the statements made by President Bush himself. They have been stressed without any room for doubt.

The first is that there is full insistence on implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, especially those calling for unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government, and on the fact that there can be no concessions or bargaining and no alternative to these two basic principles. In fact, there is full and serious commitment to full implementation to the letter.

The second result is that there is a limit to the world's patience and that the priority given to a peaceful solution is not an open commitment without any time limit. It depends on the Iraqi regime's response to the peace initiatives. If that is not achieved, then the other options will urgently come into play, and there is agreement on the steps to be taken.

The third result is that the United States wants stability and peace to prevail in the Middle East. That cannot be achieved without the removal of the biggest obstacle in the way of peace, namely, Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Therefore, settlement of the Gulf crisis is the first key to peace in the region. Without that, it would be impossible to lay the foundations of stability in the Middle East and to link that to stronger foundations for security and cooperation in Europe and other parts of the world.

Furthermore, President Bush's tour has uncovered all the Gulf crisis cards and identified the positions of the various parties at the Arab and international levels. Although the Iraqi side should have realized that the decisive phase of the crisis has started and that signs of a resolution of the crisis are most seriously, firmly, decisively, and effectively in evidence, that side's reactions remain intransigent, particularly since the Baghdad tyrant's recent statements in which he attacked President Bush's tour with such conceit and obstinate arrogance and threatened to break teeth and annihilate the U.S. forces. That, if anything, means that the criminal dictator, as he is described by President Bush himself, still has not understood the final warning addressed to him by the world, and particulary by the United States, and that he insists on knocking his head against the rock and pushing the international community to military confrontation with him as the last and sole option.

Let us go back to the question: What next?

We will try to answer it by saying that the field of operations is now more than ever ready for the final and decisive chapter in the Gulf crisis, that there is not the slightest disagreement or doubt that there is a consensus for the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government, and that there is full authority for the use of all options, especially the military option, if the latest peace attempts fail in the near and foreseeable future. There can be no doubt that the coming weeks will witness the most serious stage on the way to liberation, now that all the facts and cards have been exposed and now that the fields of operation are ready regionally, internationally, politically, economically, informationally, and militarily.

Minister Holds News Conference on Gulf Crisis

LD2511114590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0921 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 25 Nov (SPA)—The Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, said that "the Kuwaitis are ready to face up to the worst in their endeavor to recover their country from the Iraqi occupation."

In a news conference held yesterday, he said: "We welcome any way to liberate Kuwait. We will continue to fight until the last drop of our blood."

Shaykh Nasir stated: "Anything left in Kuwait is being threatened by destruction. The basic structure of the city of Kuwait has been pillaged; it has been stolen, fired at, and set ablaze."

He said the Kuwaitis are being terrorized and executed daily at the hands of the Iraqi occupation, and that between ten to fifteen persons are having their eyes gouged out daily because they refuse to change their identities.

Answering a question from KUNA, Shaykh Nasir said: "Our soldiers are ready to liberate our country from Iraq whatever the sacrifice may be," referring to the recent U.S. moves for the adoption of a United Nations Security Council resolution allowing the use of force to get Iraq out of Kuwait.

Decree Appoints New Information Minister

LD2511134690 London KUNA in Arabic 0944 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpts] al-Ta'if, 25 Nov (KUNA)—The amir of Kuwait has issued a decree appointing the minister of state for National Assembly affairs, Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, as the new minister of information, in addition to his other duties. [passage omitted]

Decree No. 94-1990 regarding government formation reads:

Because of the resignation of Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad from the post of information minister, and in accordance with the report of the prime minister, we have decided the following:

Article One: Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, current minister of state for National Assembly affairs, should be appointed minister of information in addition to his other duties.

Article Two: The prime minister should implement provisions of this decree from the date of issuance. The decree should be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Signed: Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah; Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah

Issued on 25 November 1990

Oman

Australian Defense Minister, Chief of Staff Visit

Arrive in Sultanate 24 Nov

NC2411210490 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency Senator Robert Ray, the Australian minister of defense, arrived in Muscat this evening at the head of a delegation on a several days visit. His excellency and his delegation were received at al-Sib Airbase by His Excellency Sayf bin-Hamad al-Battashi, the secretary general of the Ministry of Defense; His Excellency Lieutenant General Hamid Bin-Sa'id al-'Ufi, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces; his excellency the Australian ambassador to the Sultanate; and a number of senior officers of the Sultan's Armed Forces.

Early in the day His Excellency Lieutenant General Peter Graton, the Australian chief of staff, arrived in the Sultanate leading a military delegation. They were received by Lt. Gen. Hamid Bin-Sa'id al-'Ufi; Brigadier Sa'ud Bin-Sulayman al-Habsi, the commander of the Sultan of Oman's artillery; Rear Admiral Hilal Bin-Muhammad al-Rashidi, the senior most staff officer of the Royal Navy of Oman; the commander of the al-Sib Airbase; and a number of officers in the Sultan's Armed Forces.

Minister Meets Sultan Qabus

JN2711075090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Muscat, 26 Nov (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, received in Muscat today Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray currently visiting Oman.

The Australian defense minister arrived in Muscat earlier today as part of his tour of a number of countries in the region.

Depart 27 Nov

JN2711213290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Muscat, 27 Nov (WAKH)—Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray has left Muscat along with the Australian Defense Chief of Staff General Peter Graton after a visit to Oman of several days.

The Australian minister met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. He also held talks with Omani officials on bilateral relations.

Kuwaiti Minister of Interior al-Sabah Visits

Holds Talks With Counterpart

JN2711213790 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Badr-Bin Sa'ud Bin-Harib and Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah held on official round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The talks centered on issues of mutual interest. The visiting minister expressed thanks and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin- Sa'id and his wise government for receiving Kuwaiti citizens and facilitating their stay in the Sultanate.

The two sides agreed on coordination and measures taken to facilitate these citizens' affairs in accordance with the law. [passage omitted]

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

JN2711213490 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received today Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, minister of interior affairs of the fraternal State of Kuwait, who is visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib and the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Sultanate.

Talks centered on brotherly bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Gulf, and current efforts to end the Gulf crisis. They also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

Delivers Amir Message to Sultan

JN2711075290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Muscat, 26 Nov (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, received an oral message from Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The message was delivered by Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Public Works Minister Jasim Mahmud al-Musa when his majesty received them in Muscat today.

Minister Leaves for Jordan With Message to King

JN2711203290 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, left for Amman today on a visit to the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In a statement to SABA' before leaving, his excellency said that he was carrying a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal as part of consultations between the two monarchs on the region's problems, joint efforts, and ways to bring viewpoints close together and clear the atmosphere in the Arab region.

His excellency added that the visit takes place with the aim of restoring Arab solidarity and listening to His Majesty King Husayn's views on developments over the past weeks. He was seen off by Ambassador Khamis Bin-Hamad al-Baqqashi, head of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry; the Jordanian ambassador to the Sultanate; and Foreign Ministry officials.

Foreign Affairs Minister Returns From Tehran

NC2511203790 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation this afternoon returned to the Sultanate from Tehran after a two-day official visit to Iran.

His excellency told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY that talks during his visit had been positive and had covered the cordial relations between the two countries, the current crisis in the Gulf, and Iraq's continued occupation of Kuwait.

His excellency and his delegation were received on their arrival by His Excellency Ambassador Khamis Bin-Hamad al-Battashi, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and his excellency the Iranian charge d'affaires in the Sultanate.

Qatar

Economy Minister Leaves for Moscow, Syria

JN2611173390 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, Nov. 26 (GNA)—The Minister of Economy and Commerce Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani left for Moscow this morning leading an economic delegation on a five-day official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, Mr. Katushev.

Shaykh Hamad will have talks with Soviet senior officials aimed at enhancing ties of joint cooperation in all domains. The minister will also sign an agreement on promoting economic, trade and technical cooperation between Qatar and the Soviet Union.

In a pre-departure statement to QNA, the minister said the agreement would help boost trade relations between the two countries and encourage trade exchange of industrial and agricultural products of national origin and raw materials in line with laws effective in both countries.

The agreement will also foster ties of cooperation between the State of Qatar and the Soviet Union in various areas including industry, power generation, transport and communications, technological and agricultural expertise exchange, training of national cadres plus other spheres to be agreed upon in the future, the minister said.

Under the agreement, each party will give the other equal treatment as concerning all economic, trade and technological dealings, the minister said adding that a joint committee would be formed to be in charge of following up implementation of such cooperation. The joint committee will meet in Doha and Moscow alternately.

Qatar and the Soviet Union have established diplomatic ties last year.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim and his accompanying delegation is due to arrive in Damascus on Nov. 30 for a five-day visit to Syria at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart, Dr. Muhammad al-'Imad.

The Qatari minister will have talks with senior Syrian officials aimed at boosting economic cooperation between the two countries. He will also sign a protocol on economic and trade cooperation.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim was seen off at the Doha international airport by the Soviet ambassador to Qatar, Vladimir Vodiahin, the charge d'affaires of the Syrian Embassy here, Nizar al-Jindi and senior ministry officials.

SFRY Minister Arrives on Visit, Condemns Iraq

JN2811113890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 27 Nov (WAKH)—Branimir Pajkovic, SFRY minister of state for economic affairs, arrived in Doha today on a two-day visit to the State of Qatar at the conclusion of a tour that has already taken him to some of the region's states.

In an arrival statement, the SFRY minister said that he is carrying a message from SFRY President Dr. Borisav Jovic to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar. He added that the aim of his tour, during which he met with officials from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, as well as the Kuwaiti leadership in the city of al-Ta'if, was to exchange opinions and views with officials in these states on the latest Gulf developments created by the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

In the statement carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the SFRY minister said that during his visit to Qatar he will reiterate to Qatari officials the SFRY's condemnation of the Iraqi aggression and discuss the prospects for ending the Iraqi occupation peacefully. He affirmed that numerous world states were harmed by the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, indicating that the SFRY is among the states that were gravely harmed by it.

The SFRY minister expressed hope that bilateral cooperation will be enhanced between the SFRY and Qatar in particular and between the SFRY and the Arabian Gulf states in general.

Saudi Arabia

Bush Visit Produces 'Realistic' Understanding

PM2711153190 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 23 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Invariables in Kingdom and U.S. Policies"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's visit to the Kingdom was no ordinary visit, nor was it just an extraordinary visit dominated by formalities. It came to confirm that action within the context of international law was a reality, particularly in complex matters which once caused bitter conflict between the superpowers.

While there was an identity of views which made it a positive meeting, the statement issued by the custodian of the two holy mosques and the U.S. President regarding confirmation that the friendly forces would withdraw as soon as the crisis was over, or at the request of the Kingdom, dispels the doubts of those who have tried to make a special issue of the presence of these forces in the Gulf without looking at the causes of and considerations relating to that presence or the causes that made Saddan Husayn the world community's outcast, asked to yield to that community's resolutions.

As regards the importance of the visit, we do not deny that the United States is the undisputed superpower in the world. If, therefore, it adopts the principle of defending peoples' right to self-determination, we do not believe that the presence of its forces can be seen in the context of policies that run contrary to the internationally agreed objectives. That is why there has never been any room for dispute or disturbance in relations between it and the Kingdom, even in the most critical circumstances.

The Kingdom is one of the pillars of world peace and one of the well-established and most important members of the various international bodies, and it makes massive contributions to the aid and loans extended to the states of the world. The United States is aware of the Kingdom's exceptional importance. That is in addition to its spiritual importance to all Muslims, with whom it has helped steer the Islamic movement in the right direction, using all its resources to defend their creed and their existence.

While noting the similarities in the policies of the two countries at the bilateral and international levels, we do not forget their partnership in economic, military, and cultural transactions reflecting full cooperation based on mutual confidence. The U.S. contribution to the Kingdom's infrastructure, the exchange of governmental and popular expertise and economic and cultural missions, and the agreements concluded make their partnership the biggest outside Europe and Japan.

The Kingdom is not only oilfields. It is one of the bases of the world economy both in agriculture and industry, and it is a vital center in the channels of communication and world strategies and one of the most important links in international trade.

The Iraqi aggression against Kuwait has provided fresh evidence that the international consensus is in harmony with the policy of the future—a policy which does not seek confrontation in the hotbeds of tension in the world and which stresses that settlements must be based on international legitimacy. That is why the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait has been a most important test, which the world has passed through accord and a unified policy. That gives international cooperation new values and it gives a new meaning to the management of international conflicts.

At any rate, the visit has produced a realistic and common understanding between the two countries. Its advantages will be considerable in light of the major principles of peace and cooperation.

King Fahd Praises Thatcher's Achievements

LD2511173990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 25 November—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has sent a message to British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher praising the level of the outstanding relationship

that developed between the two countries during her premiership in the political, economic, and defense fields.

He also praised her wise policy which has had a great impact on the cause of peace and stability in the world at a time when the world was witnessing historic changes and events.

He also praised Mrs. Thatcher's support for the principle of free economy in her country and throughout the world.

King Fahd—may God preserve him—also praised the decisive stand adopted by Mrs Thatcher, her government, and the friendly British people toward the treacherous Iraqi aggrression against the fraternal State of Kuwait and the threat this poses to the security of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the stability of the region, and wished her a happy future.

Fahd Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2811015690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2240 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 27 Nov (SPA)—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has received a message from His Excellency Libyan President [title as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by the Libyan president's envoy, 'Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, when the king received him at his office in al-Salam Palace today.

The audience was attended by his excellency the adviser to the royal office, Ali bin Musallam. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

DIE WELT Interviews President on Gulf Crisis

JN2411193490 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 Nov 90

["Text" of interview with President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan by Hamburg DIE WELT; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [DIE WELT] Why does the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have good relations with Britain?

[Zayid] In fact, we have had ties with Britain for a long time. It is the European country closest to us and it knows us very well. We became close and we have never experienced any shortcomings from this relationship; we have no criticism to make against it. We have seen respect and loyalty on its part. This has made us deal with it, because we have known Britain from the times we were poor. Britain is a respectful country; it respects its friends. It is the lot of a loyal person to have loyal friends. The British presence in our midst did not hurt us; it pleased us, as leaders and citizens, in the past and please us in the present. After God granted us fortune, it left our country without any problems although we asked it to stay for some time to prepare ourselves for the period that would follow its departure because life was hard then. This is the truth. Britain has left, but our friendship has continued.

[DIE WELT] Does your highness believe that the Gulf crisis is an Arab crisis in which Western countries have no right to intervene?

[Zayid] True, it is an Arab issue. But, every Arab or foreigner must do his best to promote reconciliation, moderation, and right. This will in the end produce wellbeing, peace, and stability. The foreign troops came here only after they realized that destruction had reached its peak. No Arab has managed to come up with the remedy. The foreigner came to expel the destruction and bring about wellbeing and stability to the region. This is what I believe. This is also the opinion of all Gulf states. Therefore, I denounce talk about opposition to the presence of foreign troops on Arab land. On the contrary, those who oppose this presence must be denounced. Why do they not denounce the Iraqi occupation and invasion of a fraternal Arab country, which is a member of the Arab League and United Nations and which has played its role, together with its brothers and friends, in every calamity and crisis.

[DIE WELT] The Arab League was split into two. How does your highness see the future of the League?

[Zayid] The League will move toward recovery and health after the ignorant realize that their stance has encouraged evil. The League's division will be adjusted by the moderates who denounce evil and injustice and support right. In the end, only right will triumph. Evil will lose and those who follow it will also lose.

[DIE WELT] Does your highness believe that the Americans came to the Gulf not because of Kuwait but because Saddam gave them a pretext to move their political, economic, military weight from Europe to this region for a long time to come?

[Zayid] The Americans and the others have not come to the region because they like it here. They came in response to Kuwait's occupation. They had no intention or plans to come to the region had it not been for Saddam's occupation of Kuwait. They have come because they believe in justice and have the ability and power to remove the consequences of injustice inflicted on Kuwait. God's care has provided these means. Man does not choose what he wants, God chooses for him. We believe in God and His will. Who in the Arab world could have saved the State of Kuwait, which was attacked by the aggressor's massive troops? No one could have saved it from occupation, either now or in the future. After asking for help from God, there was no alternative but to ask for help from a superpower to deter the tyrant's injustice. The whole world realizes that the Gulf states are peace-loving countries and have never thought of harming anyone or supported any tyrant.

[DIE WELT] Does your highness believe that the presence of Western troops in the region will be useful to the Arab world, or do you think that their continued presence will constitute a threat to tradition, religion, and way of life?

[Zayid] The troops came after the tragedy inflicted on Kuwait in order to protect it and the region. They stress daily that they will not stay a single extra day and that they will inevitably withdraw. The Arab states have failed to find a solution to the crisis and have had no ability to deal with it. Therefore, the people of the Gulf want the foreign troops here because they believe there is no other force capable of rescuing Kuwait from occupation. We see no threat in people from different faiths mingling. It does not hurt the Islamic faith, nor does it change the believers' religion and belief in God. People should deal with each other and mingle with each other; everyone deals with the foreigner on the basis of joint interest and mutual benefit.

[DIE WELT] What does Your Excellency think about Saddam Husayn's idea of a single Arab nation? Will this unity bring about any problems, as is the case in the Soviet Union or Europe where every state wants to keep its independence?

[Zayid] Saddam's real opinion is the one we see in Kuwait these days. This is his real opinion of Arab unity. He has divided and not united. Man is not judged by what he thinks or says, but by what he does.

[DIE WELT] Your Highness, is there any historic justification for Kuwait's occupation?

[Zayid] Never. There is no historical, legal, or any other justification. Kuwait is an independent country recognized by the Arab League, the United Nations, and the entire world, including Iraq. Those who may have evidence to support their claim should put forward their cause through legitimate channels and not commit aggression. He who commits aggression is not convinced of his own evidence, and prefers aggression and plundering. Does the aggressor have any rights?

[DIE WELT] Does your highness believe that Saddam threatens attacking the UAE, and has there been any contact between you after the invasion of Kuwait?

[Zayid] The UAE is a member of the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and there is a Charter to regulate inter-Arab relations. And, because Saddam has not respected the League's charter, has not paid any attention to the GCC, and has not kept the pledges he made to some, then we must be cautious.

[DIE WELT] Are there any elements of opposition in the UAE?

[Zayid] No, absolutely not. There should not even be any thought of this question.

[DIE WELT] How do the citizens feel about the presence of U.S. troops in the sacred lands, the presence of women in the U.S. forces, and the fact that they eat pork in Saudi Arabia?

[Zayid] In accordance with God's book [the Koran], we say: You have your religion, I have mine. Each has his own book and faith, and God has not created mankind to be slave to anyone. He has created men to be free, whether in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, or anywhere else. Islam is a tolerant religion and does not oppose other heavenly messages except through ways that are best and most gracious [last seven words part of a Koranic verse].

[DIE WELT] Should Saddam be given the islands of Bubiyan and Warbah, and probably the al-Rumaylah oil field in return for his withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Zayid] No, never. This should not be allowed. Otherwise, every covetous person will feel he can be rewarded. This will encourage others like him to follow his example when he attacks someone else. Neither Islamic law nor international law give the aggressor any right. So, how do you give the aggressor compensation? He must be tried for the harm he inflicts and for his aggression.

[DIE WELT] The Kuwaiti resistance is organized partially from the UAE. Does your highness support this resistance now?

[Zayid] It is our duty to stand by our Kuwaiti brothers because what binds them binds us, and vice versa. When they need us, we must stand by them, and we do not abandon our duty, neither when we are prosperous nor when we are poor.

[DIE WELT] Are the Kuwaitis officially allowed to stage demonstrations in the UAE?

[Zayid] Yes, the Kuwaitis have the right to demonstrate and express their feelings because they seek their right, and their right is clear and well known.

[DIE WELT] The hajj season will begin in nine months. Will this be possible with the presence of over 200,000 non-Muslims in the sacred lands?

[Zayid] The hajj rituals are performed in certain locations and not over all the Saudi territory. The foreign troops are positioned in areas over 1,000 km away from the places where the hajj rituals are performed in Mecca and Medina. The scholars of the Islamic World have issued a fatwa [religious ruling] that this is not forbidden. Islam is a tolerant religion, and a Muslim does not go toward anything that does not benefit him. Muslims must follow all the dictates of the Book of God, the teachings of His prophet, and what is allowed and what has to be done at the proper time.

President Zayid Meets Pakistani Prime Minister

JN2411123590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, met this morning with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who is visiting Abu Dhabi.

They reviewed the latest developments of the situation in the Gulf in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwaiti and the efforts to implement the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization demanding an immediate unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY has said that the Pakistani prime minister restated his country's rejection of the Iraqi occupation and its demand for withdrawal and the return of the legitimate government to the State of Kuwait, adding that this position was unanimously adopted by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation states during their recent meeting in the Maldives.

Iranian Construction Jihad Minister Visits

Arrives; Denounces Invasion

JN2611121190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Nov (WAKH)—Iranian Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], during which he will hold talks with senior UAE officials on cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement to WAM on arrival, the Iranian minister said that the objective of his visit to the UAE is to study the areas of bilateral cooperation based on the existing good relations between the two countries and the desire to further promote them. He added that he will discuss with the UAE agriculture and fisheries minister a host of issues of interest to the Iranian Construction Jihad Ministry, most important of which are fisheries, forestry, farming, water, and animal raising.

Regarding his country's position on the Gulf crisis, he reiterated his country's denunciation of the Iraqi invasion, and its condemnation of the confusion it created in the region. He said that Iran believes that a settlement of the crisis can be achieved through Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, stressing that changing the geographical map is not in the interest of anyone, and that silence over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait would encourage others to repeat this action. He also reiterated his country's commitment to all the UN resolutions, particularly regarding the current Gulf crisis.

Delivers Message to Prime Minister

JN2611173190 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 26 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Vice-President and Prime Minister Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum today received a verbal message from Iranian Prime Minister Dr. Hasan Habibi dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

The message was delivered by Iranian Minister of Reconstruction (Jihad al-Bina) Gholamreza Foruzesh during a meeting with Shaykh Maktum.

Shaykh Maktum discussed bilateral relations and developments in the Gulf in the light of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Foruzesh said after the meeting that he relayed to Shaykh Maktum greetings of Habibi on his election as vice-president and prime minister .

In a statement carried by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM), he affirmed his country's firm stand towards the Gulf crisis and said that he briefed Shaykh Maktum on his ministry's activities .

He also discussed with Shaykh Maktum ways of boosting agricultural and economic cooperation between the two countries .

The meeting was attended by Minister of Finance and Industry Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Sa'id al-Raqabani, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sa'id al-Ghath and Iranian Ambassador Hadi Najafabadi.

Discusses Cooperation

JN2811112690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Nov (WAKH)—Sa'id al-Raqbani, minister of agriculture and fisheries in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met in Abu Dhabi today with Iranian Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh who is currently visiting the UAE.

Mr. Sa'id al-Raqbani said after the meeting that they discussed various topics dealing with bolstering bilateral relations in the fields of agriculture and animal and fish resources. He said that he discussed with the Iranian side the basis for forming fruitful cooperation and exchanging technical expertise between the two countries that would realize their joint interests within the framework of the existing friendship relations.

President Receives Message From Kuwaiti Amir

JN2111091590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Nov (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dealing with the situation in the region in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait as well as with relations between the two countries.

The message was conveyed by Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, who was received by his highness here this evening.

SFRY State Minister Leaves Abu Dhabi 23 Nov

JN2311125690 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Branimir Pajkovic, SFRY minister of state for economic affairs, left the country this morning at the conclusion of a two-day visit to the state within a tour of the region. [passage omitted]

New Cabinet Sworn In Before President

JN2111130090 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpts] United Arab Emirates President [UAE] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan this morning received His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, vice president and chairman of the Council of Ministers; His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; and the members of the Council of Ministers, who were sworn in before his highness. [passage omitted]

Following the swearing-in ceremony, his highness the UAE president met with the members of the Council of Ministers and urged them to work seriously and honestly in the interest of the homeland and citizens. His highness also asked them to double their efforts to achieve prosperity and for the Emirian people in support of the union and its progress.

His highness also referred to the importance of the forthcoming stage of national action. He said the new Council of Ministers will reinforce the pillars of the state and that work will continue to strengthen the internal buildup and achieve the interest of the homeland and citizens, stressing that it is work, and not man, which is eternal. He then wished them success in shouldering their full responsibility. At the end of the meeting, photographs were taken of his highness the UAE president and the ministers on this occasion.

Yemen

Sanaa 'Will Not Vote for' Resolution on Force

JN2711164490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, 27 Nov (INA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has stated that his country will not vote for a UN Security Council resolution calling for the use of force against Iraq.

Stating this following a meeting with his French counterpart, Roland Dumas, here today, the Yemeni minister emphasized the need for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Yemen will preside over the UN Security Council's sessions in December.

Al-'Attas Receives Jordanian Minister Fariz

JN2811114490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas received this morning Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Fariz, who is currently visiting our country. They reviewed economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, and ways to promote it. The meeting was attended by Deputy Supply and Industry Minister brother Muhammad (?al-Hani), and the Jordanian ambassador in Sanaa.

Foreign Minister Returns From Tehran 21 Nov

JN2211072490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani returned to Sanaa from Tehran last night following a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the visit, he conveyed a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also held talks with Iranian officials on bolstering cooperation.

In a statement to SABA', brother al-Iryani said he signed with his Iranian counterpart, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, a memorandum of understanding on the tasks of the various joint cooperation committees.

Habash Reiterates Need for Gulf Crisis Linkage

JN2411212690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has urged the states supporting the Arab solution, at the head of which is the Republic of Yemen and the PLO, to continue in their efforts to find a peaceful political settlement to the Gulf crisis and to face the attempts made by certain big powers to obstruct the political solution to the crisis. He stressed

that there are nine Arab countries calling for a political solution, and that Europe, France, and the Soviet Union implicitly want this solution.

Dr. George Habash urged the states supporting the Arab solution to prepare to face foreign troops if the U.S. Administration sets off a military situation in the Gulf. He stressed that the aim behind the presence of U.S. troops in the region is to fully control and impose hegemony on the oil wealth in the Peninsula and the Gulf, which has 66 percent of the world's oil reserves.

This emerged during the news conference brother Dr. George Habash held this evening in Sanaa.

Dr. Habash also urged the real Arab leaders and the Arab nationalist leaders to declare that any aggression on Iraq is an aggression on the Arab nation so that the U.S. Administration will learn that the region will become a graveyard for its troops if it continues the policy of military (?exacerbation) in the region. He stressed the importance of linking the Gulf crisis with the Middle East problem and placing the oil weapon at the service of the Arab nation's central cause, the Palestine question.

He explained that the U.S. Administration, which claims it is concerned for legitimacy, is insincere in adopting the resolutions of international legitimacy because it has double standards. He referred to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative and the consequent Arab initiatives which call for the implementation of all resolutions of international legitimacy and [passage indistinct].

Ramadan Said To Call For Negotiations With Bush

NC2811093690 Paris AFP in English 0927 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 28 (AFP) Iraq on Wednesday appealed for negotiations with U.S. President George Bush on the eve of a U.N. vote that could authorise the use of force against Baghdad in the current Gulf crisis.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan told a press conference here that Mr. Bush had "no other choice but to return to reason and enter into a dialogue to avoid the catastrophies of war in the region."

Experts Said To Find No Evidence of Atomic Bomb

AU2711175690 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1700 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Roland Machatschke report]

[Excerpt] A team of inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspected the two research reactors and the two laboratories for nuclear research in Iraq last week. The experts discovered no changes as compared with the previous inspection carried out in April this year. This fact was announced today by the IAEA on Baghdad's request. During such inspections, the quantity of fissionable material is usually examined in order to find out whether material has been diverted for secret purposes. Such controls are carried out twice a year under the conditions of the Nonproliferation Treaty, which has also been signed by Iraq.

However, the IAEA report does not mean that Saddam Husayn will not try to develop an atomic bomb in another way, in order to be able to give more weight to his policy of blackmail. U.S. officials, including President Bush, claim that an Iraqi atomic bomb might exist in the near future. However, they have not been able to furnish proof so far. [passage omitted]

Paper Replies To Cheney on Nuclear Capability

JN2711160090 Baghdad INA in English 1244 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov.27, INA—The Iraqi English language daily 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' said here today that U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney on Sunday said Iraq could "have nuclear capability in a year or less." And talked about something that ranges from "some kind of crude device" to a "deliverable weapon."

The daily said that the U.S. and Britain have always tried to block any access by Iraq to technological know-how. They talked about "nuclear triggers" Iraq was allegedly trying to smuggle from the West. Later it came out that the so-called triggers were no more than electrical capacitors.

The daily added that then came the "doomsday gun" which they said Iraq was preparing for the launch of "nuclear weapons" that can reach Israel. But the "gun" story has also come out to be a farce, as British customs had to admit that the "supergun" had no military application.

It seems that the United States and Britain are angry, simply because they cannot, and would not, stomach the idea that the balance of power in the region may one day tilt in favour of the Arabs, and Iraq in particular. They are working towards giving Israel military superiority over the Arabs so that American and British interests in the region can be maintained. They have facilitated the acquisition by Israel of nuclear weapons.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER further said that lies and fabrications told by the Bush administration and Britain against Iraq seem short living. U.S. and British opposition against to deprive the Arab country of an inalienable right to acquire progress and to make the Western countries' ally Israel, superior. [sentence as received] They go hand in hand with the military build-up in the Gulf which is aimed, among other things, at keeping Iraq and the Arabs weak in the face of Israel, it concluded.

Government Denies Preventing Soviets' Travel

JN2811115690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1132 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—Iraq has said that it has not made any decision preventing the travel of Soviet citizens in Iraq.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed great astonishment at the negative statements made by some Soviet sources regarding the travel of Soviet workers in Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that these workers are in Iraq in accordance with contracts and obligations and that we informed the Soviet side clearly during the Soviet presidential envoy Primakov's visit and during the Iraqi officials' visits to Moscow, the most recent of which was the foreign minister's visit to Moscow on 26 November, that Iraq will allow any Soviet national to leave once his contract and obligations have ended, or when he has no further commitment in Iraq.

The spokesman stressed that large numbers have already left. He called on the Soviet Government to find a solution to the issue of Soviet citizens who have obligations and contracts, through coordination and agreement with the competent Iraqi quarters.

He said Iraq holds the Soviet side responsible for not solving the problems of contracts and obligations, and added that the Soviet authorities are talking only about the departure of workers without making any serious effort to resolve the problem of contracts and obligations. Instead, he said, they are resorting to unfounded tendentious propaganda campaigns.

Concluding, the spokesman emphasized Iraq's principled stance and said Iraq has not adopted any illegal measure against Soviet citizens.

Saddam Meets With American Families in Baghdad

JN2711113990 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1510 GMT 26 Nov

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has stressed that Iraq is seeking peace because the Iraqis know how to build things well and are now proving this, just as they proved it 6,000 years ago. However, he added, we do not seek peace only for ourselves, but for all mankind. The people who need peace most are the Palestinians within their own independent state.

During a meeting with a group of American families that came to visit their relatives in Iraq, the leader president said: While talking about the world order after the end of the cold war, the U.S. Administration will create new hostile forces because U.S. policy was too quick to make the United States play the role of world policeman. U.S. officials have given themselves the role of international policeman, with his heavy club and thick moustache.

Leader President Saddam Husayn explained that the main thing is that the states which God has honored with great resources should seek to be loved by others. He said: Love can achieve the greatest things in life, and love—not hatred or the use of, or threats to, use the thick club—connects man with his God.

On the occasion of their visit to Iraq, leader President Saddam Husayn has given the order to allow the American families to take with them their relatives now in Iraq. The president said: From now on, you will have additional rights above the rights of the owners of the house and without removing any of your other rights, including the freedom to travel. If you feel that hospitality has to come to an end, you can travel to the United States of America, or anywhere else in the world at the time you deem appropriate.

The following is the text of the president's address:

At the outset of the meeting, President Saddam Husayn welcomed the audience and asked them whether they had previously visited Baghdad.

The president said: A person cannot fulfill everything that he wishes. Perhaps God has willed it to be so in order to keep the prospect perpetually open so that a human being might keep trying incessantly. If all wishes came true, then perhaps life will stop. The worst thing about any erroneous behavior, however, is when this behavior is contrary to one's intentions or contrary to what people would collectively love to see happen, as when such contrary behavior is in keeping with premeditated evil intentions. For this reason, I believe that the gentlemen who are present are inwardly convinced—despite the criticism they level at the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi National Assembly—that the prevention of their travel has not resulted from any evil intentions. We are happy to meet you, whether those who are guests in Iraq—who have been prevented from traveling abroad—or those who have come from the United States. You are all welcome.

From this day, from this moment, you will have rights in addition to those of your hosts. None of your other rights will be withheld, including the right to travel. If you feel that the hospitality should end, you can travel to the United States or any other place in the world when you choose.

The audience: Thank you.

The president: If you want our assistance, we are ready to give it, or if you decide you do not need the assistance of any of the state's organs and if you can travel via the route you choose, you are welcome to do so.

As I have said on more than one occasion, we believe that people, wherever they are, are basically good because when God Almighty created people, He created them to carry out their duties, both in their ordinary daily lives and among those whom are connected with giving thanks to God, the Lord of heaven and earth.

As long as God, may He be praised and exalted, has created human beings thus, they must necessarily be basically good. Whenever the quality of quarrelsomeness or evil appears in a person, it is a temptation by the Devil. We believe that humanity as a whole, on a common level, is one family whose origin goes back to the father of humanity, Adam and its mother Eve.

For this reason I believe—and perhaps you feel the same way—that when we meet it is as if we are part of this larger family. However, I must tell you from experience—I have been in power for 22 years—now this is a task that is commonly described as power although I do not like this description. I have been in the party leadership since 1963. I must tell you from my own experience that I believe and feel that ordinary people, ordinary citizens—apart from those who are tempted by the Devil and led far astray by him from lofty values—are closer to God than those in power. When those who are in power are farther from God than the people, then they must be closer to the Devil than to God. For the person in power to avoid this description, he must ask himself daily and in detail about his own possessions, how he acquired them, and whether they were acquired by honest or dishonest means. He must ask himself which of his decisions are the result of a fit of rage and which came after deliberate reasoning and conviction. He must ask himself which of his decisions are merely the expression of a personal whim and which are the result of objective evaluation. What is more important than this is the fact that he should be ready to ask himself a question about every action he takes. He must assume that he himself is a citizen. If he as a citizen will listen to or learn of this decision, how will he view it?

This means that he should put himself in the place of the authority assigned to or entrusted with making the

decisions and then describe his feelings and show his position on such decisions if these decisions were to be applied against him.

He should also be prepared all along to reconsider his decision once he discovers, after making that decision, that he made a mistake.

As I have said in previous meetings, the foreigners who have been prevented from traveling are not the only ones who are upset by this decision. We are upset too, because we are humans and we could feel the pain of people when they are prevented from exercising their rights. But our only excuse lies in the intention. We do not intend to harm anybody or deny anybody his rights. We only intended to add factors that might make some of those who seek war hesitate a little, to think better. We know very well what war means. We also know because we have been through it. We also know that should this war take place, it will be very horrifying, both for humanity in general and for the interests of mankind.

However, we thank God that none of the citizens died as a result of not being allowed to leave. But do you know, ladies and gentlemen, how many children and people died as a result of the United States' denying medicines to the people of Iraq? If we go to the hospitals and ask them to supply us with lists, we will find out that a great number of people are dying as a result of being deprived of medicine.

We hope that those who are carrying out such acts will come back to their senses and reconsider the situation so that humanity might be spared death and destruction. In the 1940's, 1950's, and 1960's, the United States' reputation was different from what it is today. Why is it now that whenever the name of the United States is mentioned, an image of a fearful monster is evoked and is associated with this name—and I mean the decision-making politicians in America. This is not only here, but everywhere among peoples of the Third World, without exception. You as citizens could ascertain my words wherever you go. Perhaps on your way will pass by Jordan, for instance, which is an Arab and Third World country. You could also see this in Guinea, in Africa, for instance.

[American] We have already experienced this.

The president continues: Why does this happen? It is because the officials in America have given themselves the role of the international policeman, one carrying a heavy stick and with handlebar mustaches.

There is a difference between respect and fear. I know that some people fear the United States of America. However, they do not love it. When God endows states with ability, they should seek the love of others. It is love, rather than hatred and cane-brandishing or threatening to use force, which realizes the great aspirations in life and solidifies relations between man and the Almighty.

I had a meeting with the U.S. ambassador before the 2 August events—and she must remember—and I told her... [Saddam changes thought] America was threatening us at that time, even before the 2 August events. We have to remind the audience that the U.S. Congress had decided to ban grain exports to Iraq in the third month—that is, five months before the events. I told the U.S. ambassador that we know that the United States of America is a superpower and that it has become the indisputable number-one superpower. I told her we know that the United States owns intercontinental missiles which can carry nuclear warheads, that it owns nuclear bombs. However, I told her that there was something I would like her to convey to U.S. President Mr. Bush: I hope you will not make small nations underestimate or look indifferently at intercontinental missiles, nuclear bombs, and U.S. military capabilities.

I said to her, do you know what happens when people underestimate these capabilities and do not fear them—when you push these people into a corner and force them to choose between either enjoying their dignity, freedom, independence, and their legitimate rights, or being scared and losing all this. However small in number and size, these small nations have their spiritual values and their own identity. When pressure continues and they are asked to abandon their ideals and they really do so, they become valueless and without a homeland, even if they live on its soil, because they lose their dignity.

If you mingle with the Iraqi people and ask them from the most inconsequential peddler to the minister... [American interrupts] Very true, I understand that. [Saddam continues]...ask them why they do not fear these great fleets and armies which are massed in the Arab and Muslim holy lands in the Arabian Peninsula, they would clearly say that they know that these forces are present and that they are capable of harming them, but that they, as well, can harm these forces. In any case, they will say that they are not intimidated by threats because they would lose their security, dignity, sanctities, identity, and rights if they responded to these threats.

[American] This is very true.

[Saddam] Each one of you can influence U.S. society. If you live for a time in Iraqi society, you can influence its conviction. How can a human being influence his environment? It is through dialogue. If the United States remains the state which gives assistance and not the state which threatens people, its reputation will be better now, and it will be loved more by people. Consequently, this will lead to the existence of legitimate and secure interests for the United States in the world without the need for armies to protect them.

How many tens of thousands die each year in the world because of famine—in Africa, Asia, and perhaps elsewhere? Maybe hundreds of thousands die because of malnutrition while grain in the United States, Australia, and Canada is dumped in the sea in order to maintain

the official prices set for it. How many billions of dollars have been spent on the armies which have invaded the sacred land of Arabs and Muslims? Tens of billions. If these tens of billions of dollars had been paid to the owners of the grain dumped in the sea, hundreds of thousands who are dying of hunger in Africa and Asia would have survived. If these funds have been spent on culture and medicine... [sentence incomplete as heard] If the United States were to carry out one-quarter of this project, it will be immortalized by all the people of the world for its humane act. It will have built a bridge of humanity which will be remembered by the people of the world.

During the 1940's and 1950's, the United States won the hearts of people through charitable projects. However, when the United states began to use armies and a big stick, it began to lose the people's hearts. When any authority loses the people's hearts and minds, then at a certain moment people will raise their hands against it. In any case, in order for the big to remain big and treated with respect, their relations with the small must be cordial and based on dialogue instead of threats, coercion, injustice, and starvation.

The president continues: For instance, the U.S. Administration will create, while talking of a world order to follow the cold war, new hostile forces because the U.S. policy was too hasty in making the United States play the role of world policeman. America occupied Grenada and then went to Panama to bring its president—who had been elected regardless of his character—handcuffed to be brought to trial in the United States of America. Then it bounced with its armies to occupy the holy spot which had not been invaded in 15 centuries. If you ask the Bush Administration why it had bounced into these holy places to turn all Arabs and Muslims against it, its officials will say that they had gone there at the invitation of a single person named King Fahd. They and the Egyptian president had involved him in this based on groundless information. The Egyptian President has finally admitted on radio and television that he was the one who told King Fahd that two Iraqi armored brigades were on their way to Saudi Arabia—this was not true.

When Fahd asked America, the U.S. Administration confirmed the information, which is completely untrue. Is it acceptable for the United States of America to respond to the wishes of a single person and lose all the Muslim world and the Arab community, and thus lose 1 billion Muslims by a single decision? Is the United States a police station which responds to any telephone call and sends its Army abroad? Is it acceptable to belittle the lives of men—Americans, Iraqis, or of any other nationality—to that extent?

They may tell you that they had come to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, while you are fully aware that they had come to the region before the UN resolutions were issued. [U.S. Defense Secretary Richard] Cheney came to Saudi Arabia and arranged for the forces' arrival before the UN Security Council adopted the resolutions, specifically those resolutions which entrust America with such a task.

The UN Security Council had not decided to send troops to Saudi Arabia at the time when the U.S. President decided to send these troops. It was the U.S. President, rather than the UN Security Council, who had decided to send these troops.

Just take a look now at the tours which Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney are making around the world. They have covered the entire world. What does this mean? It means that they are pressuring the UN Security Council to adopt the resolutions which they themselves had earlier planned.

Only two days ago, Mr. Cheney came up with statements saying that Iraq has already developed, or is about to develop, a nuclear bomb. His target was to insinuate the dangers involved and thus justify their forces' arrival in the Arabian Peninsula, and accordingly, to justify their intentions to invade Iraq. Do you note how the U.S. Administration changes its objectives, and how it adds a new objective every day to the mission of the American troops?

Before sending his troops, he [Bush] did not tell you as Americans, and did not tell us or tell the world that he was going to the region to prevent Iraq from owning a nuclear bomb as he claims now. If he had said that to us, we would have easily told him that we were willing to sit together and agree to impose strict controls on all biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons in the region—and that had been proposed by Iraq.

The truth is that Iraq does not possess a nuclear bomb. Had we a nuclear bomb, we would have announced that we do. We would not have been shy about announcing it, because some Third World countries possess nuclear bombs. You know and we know that Israel, for example, possess nuclear bombs. We have stated which weapons that we possess. Nevertheless, we said: Well, if they want real peace, let those interested in the world come so we can work out final solutions and achieve complete peace in the area with specific criteria. No one should be asked to implement the UN Security Council resolution when the big states and powers do not respect the Security Council resolution.

You know that Palestine is occupied, Syria's Golan Heights is occupied, and part of Lebanon is occupied, and that the one who occupied them is Israel. You know that Israel has made a decision to annex Jerusalem to the so-called State of Israel, and a similar decision was made with regard to the Syrian Golan territory. You see on television how the people of Palestine are being tortured, how children, women, and old people are being killed, and how they suffer daily.

If the United States of America respects democracy—and we think that its people do respect it—then we must be interested in public opinion. Does not the fact that a young girl, who is not even a Palestinian but a Lebanese, carrying out a suicide attack in order to kill a number of

soldiers draw the attention of the United States? How and why can such a thing happen, unless the Arabs and Muslims feel tormented because of the injustice they have suffered as a result of Israel's occupation of Jerusalem, Palestine, and the other Arab territories?

Another proof comes to us from the Arab territory of Egypt. Husni is with Bush's policy. Does not the fact that an Egyptian soldier, a hero, taking his rifle and going as a fedayeen to an area with Israeli soldiers and killing several of them without being asked to do so by his government, draw the attention of the American people? Does this not mean that the Arabs feel the injustice and the harshness exercised by those who possess the power to make decisions for decades? Are not these proofs sufficient? Are not these children and people, who heroically and without parallel resist with stones the Israeli occupation forces, providing enough proof to conclude that the time has come to achieve a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue? This is, ladies and gentlemen, what we said in our initiative on 12 August. We said that we want a complete and comprehensive peace, a peace that is preceded by psychological and practical preparations. The most important thing in psychological and practical readiness is for everyone to be prepared for dialogue, to sit at the same table, and to find solutions based on uniform standards for all the issues of the areas, not the selective standards that the White House administration and Israel want.

Have U.S. officials seriously thought of the harm that would come to the United States' name and interests, as this blockade continues for a long time and people start to die of starvation and from a lack of medical equipment, and when the news reaches the world—and the Islamic community specifically?

Please convey my greetings to the citizenry in America when you all return safely. Tell them that Iraq wants peace, because the Iraqis are good at construction. They have shown that they are as good at construction now as they had been 6,000 years ago. People who are good at construction want peace, because economic prosperity and construction can only thrive under peace.

We do not want peace for ourselves only, but for all humanity. The people who most need peace under a free independent peace are the Palestinians. I wish you success. It has been pleasant to meet you.

UK, U.S. Nationals Moved From Kuwait to Baghdad

JN2711174690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Baghdad say that Iraqi authorities have secretly transferred to Baghdad a number of British and U.S. hostages who had been held at strategic sites inside Kuwait. The same sources said that 58 Britons and five Americans were transferred last Sunday night from Kuwait to Iraq and put in a Baghdad hotel.

Iraqi authorities have so far not issued any clarification on this. However, some observers do not rule out the possibility that the Iraqis may be planning to release a number of British hostages following the visit to Baghdad by Tony Benn, the leader of the leftist wing of the British Labor Party.

In any case, the British Foreign Office today advised its subjects in Kuwait to maintain a low profile and avoid appearing in public places.

UK Labor Official, Delegation Arrive in Baghdad

JN2611212390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Tony Benn, member of the British House of Commons and Labor Party, and his delegation arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Benn expressed happiness at visiting Iraq, the cradle of old civilizations. He said the purpose of the visit was to hold discussions and consultations with Iraqi officials on developments in the Arabian Gulf, and the means to establish peace in the region.

He added that the whole world wants peace and rejects war against Iraq, which is being prepared for by America and its allies so as to maintain its interests in the region.

He said there was a possibility of reaching a resolution through the United Nations by granting the Arab nation the right to resolve its problems by itself.

Benn was received at the airport by a number of officials of the National Assembly.

Meets With Salih

JN2811094090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, tonight received Tony Benn, member of the British Parliament and the opposition Labor Party, and his delegation.

The National Assembly speaker stressed that the Middle East problems are interlinked and should be resolved according to one standard. He said the Palestinian Arab people's suffering should be ended and these people should be able to establish their independent state as a prelude to resolving all regional issues.

Tony Benn expressed his belief that all peoples should enjoy the right to live and master science, stressing his solidarity with the Iraqi people in their confrontation of threats of force and unjust economic blockade. He pointed out that the whole world understands the need to solve all outstanding problems in order to open up new avenues for mankind in all domains.

Finnish Delegation Meets With Ramadan

JN2611210690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received today the Finnish delegation that comprises Ulf Sundqvist, former Finnish industry and trade minister [name and title as received], and the former Finnish foreign minister.

The first deputy prime minister said that seeing conditions and the background to them in detail on the ground would help in arriving at just and objective positions. He added that the resolutions taken by the U.S. Administration under the guise of international legitimacy were not based on legitimacy, facts, or international law, but aimed at deceiving world public opinion and certain governments in order to achieve the U.S. Administration's aggressive objectives and selfish interests.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member, stressed that many states have discovered the truth about the U.S. occupation of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], after Bush misled them with his deceptive methods and after his aggressive policy was exposed by his rejection of any initiative or dialogue formula to achieve a real and comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Optimistic on Hostage Release

LD2711192590 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1600 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Interview with Diet Deputy Paavo Vaeyrynen and bank manager Ulf Sundqvist by correspondent Hannu Vaeisaenen in Baghdad on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Diet Deputy Paavo Vaeyrynen and bank manager Ulf Sundqvist have continued their discussions in Baghdad on the release of Finnish hostages. They have not been given any promises. The delegation is however still cautiously optimistic.

[Vaeisaenen] The Finnish delegation's visit to Iraq is nearing its end. According to present prospects Vaeyrynen and Sundqvist will leave for home tomorrow. Today's message was at least partly positive. What is today's result? Is freedom in sight for the Finns already?

[Vaeyrynen] Today we had three meetings. The most important took place in the afternoon when we had an opportunity to talk with Dr. Hammadi, an Iraqi deputy prime minister, who was foreign minister and my opposite number in that capacity earlier. In addition we met a deputy foreign minister and in parliament the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In these discussions we strongly appealed for the release of the Finnish hostages and also for all Nordic hostages, stressing that holding hostages here is giving rise to growing irritation in Finland and the other Nordic countries. Their release would create a good atmosphere so that we could gain support for a peaceful solution. In all the discussions support was promised for our undertaking. We have however no certainty yet of how this undertaking will succeed. We are relatively optimistic and are waiting to see these negotiations will lead.

[Vaeisaenen] Now that the Swedes will be able to leave there has been talk about a joint Nordic charter flight. Has this matter progressed?

[Sundqvist] The question now is of a Swedish charter flight, but after the positive decision was made yesterday that the Swedes will be able to leave, we have in today's discussions spoken very strongly especially for a joint Nordic solution and thus we could also bring this technical solution of how the Finns would be able to leave here.

[Vaeisaenen] When will it become clear whether this succeeds?

[Sundqvist] This process is now under way and we do not quite know now how and at what level the decision will be made. We know that quite obviously it will be taken at a very high political level. We have now done everything possible so far. Perhaps we will have further meetings, but perhaps there is reason for cautious optimism.

National Assembly Speaker Meets U.S. Delegation

JN2711155290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has met with the U.S. peace messengers' delegation led by (Mr. Gene Istovis).

Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that Iraq is working for security and stability in the region and throughout the world despite U.S. provocations aimed at dragging the region and the world into a destructive war. He said that the objective behind the U.S. presence in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf is to control oil so that the United States can control the world's destiny and strike at the technological accomplishments of the Iraqi people.

The delegation expressed its categorical rejection of the logic of war, threats, and aggression, referring to the need to ensure peace in the region and throughout the world.

In addition, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met this evening with (Bavo Vayerty), former Finnish minister of foreign affairs; and (Ulf Sundqvist), former Finnish minister of industry and trade, and the delegation accompanying them.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih reviewed Iraq's positions and its gesture to allow Iraq's foreign national guests to leave Iraq or stay if they wish. The Finnish delegation stressed the need for dialogue and understanding and to resolve regional problems peacefully rather than through the language of threats and aggression.

Japanese Delegation Arrives for Gulf Discussions

JN2711161290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Issei Inoue, chief of the International Affairs Bureau of the opposition Japanese Socialist Party [JSP] and member of the parliament, arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Inoue said he will meet with Iraqi officials to discuss developments in the Arabian Gulf and bilateral ties between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the JSP. He said that the JSP seeks a peaceful solution to the current regional tension to avert the dangers of a devastating war.

The Japanese official was welcomed at the airport by the head of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the National Command [of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party].

Confers With Salih

JN2811105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1542 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with Issei Inoue, opposition Japanese Socialist Party [JSP] Central Committee member and member of parliament, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker stressed that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region and the world is the noble objective that the Iraqi people seriously seek to achieve to avert mankind the catastrophes of war. He pointed out that the escalation of the imperialist American onslaught, the threats to carry out aggression against Iraq, and the unjust economic blockade against Iraq will not affect the Iraqi people's determination, steadfastness, and ability to safeguard their land and dignity and to protect their achievements.

Issei Inoue expressed the Japanese people's support for the Iraqi people's aspirations for a just and comprehensive peace, stressing that the Japanese are among the world peoples who suffered most from war catastrophes, and this is why they now stand against those who are beating the drums of war, threatening mankind, and trying to shed blood for the sake of achieving parochial interests. He highly valued Iraq's peace initiatives to resolve problems through calm and constructive dialogue in the interest of the world and its progress.

Meets With Ramadan

JN2811105990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1611 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Issei Inoue, chief of the International Affairs Bureau of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] and member of the Japanese Parliament, and his delegation. The first deputy prime minister said Japan's interest as well as that of all other countries lies in realizing a comprehensive peace and resolving all problems so that security, stability, and cooperation may prevail among nations and lead to progress, prosperity, and peace for all mankind away from the use of force and wars, which are sought by Bush and his allies in order to threaten world peace and security in defiance of the international community's feelings and peaceful will.

Taha Yasin Ramadan indicated that the direct and indirect hostile U.S. stands against Iraq became clear before 2 August, that the links of the plot were exposed, and that the U.S. Administration sought to implicate some governments in order to peddle its hostile policy, dominate the world, and both control and enslave the human race.

The JSP member said the JSP and the Japanese people are against war and seek peace. He stressed that the United States has failed to secure the dispatch of Japanese forces to the Gulf region due to the opposition to its policy by the Japanese Parliament, parties, and people. He said international efforts should be directed toward finding solutions to problems so that a just and comprehensive peace can be established, indicating that the world public opinion, organizations, and parties are increasingly supporting the peace efforts in order to spare the world from the disasters of a destructive war.

Belgian Delegation Meets With Health Minister

JN2711161990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2059 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad met today with the Belgian parliamentary delegation headed by Senator Hans de Belder, Belgian senate member, chairman of the foreign trade committee, and member of the parliamentary society for Arab-European cooperation, and his delegation.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the inhumanity of the Security Council in cutting off food, medicine, and children's milk from Iraq contrary to international laws and regulations, which exclude medicines from the sanctions on Iraq.

He said that the world health organizations, such as the WHO and UNICEF, have banned their employees from entering Iraq to carry out their duties. Things have reached the stage where a ship carrying medical baby milk has been banned from Iraq and turned back.

The Belgian delegation reaffirmed the importance of quick action to ask international organizations and bodies to convey Iraq's stand honestly and frankly and to inform them of the suffering of sick people that has resulted from preventing medicines from reaching them.

Confers With Jasim

JN2711201190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau, has said that dialogue and negotiations are the ideal avenue to a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution of the region's issues in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990.

During a meeting with a Belgian delegation that comprised representatives of seven political parties, comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that respect for human rights demands that under no circumstances should people be deprived of food, medicine, and baby milk in contravention of the Child Rights Charter, the principles of the Human Rights Declaration, and the Geneva Convention.

He added that resolving all the region's problems, headed by the Palestine question, Lebanon, and the Arabian Gulf problems, will make it possible to remove the shadow of war and its destructive misery and to establish a durable and comprehensive peace throughout the region.

The Regional Command member added that the United States is trying to subdue Iraq—a successful country—through the imposition of the unjust economic blockade and the attempt to secure a UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq to subdue it and force it to deal with it [the U.S. Administration] and submit to its aggressive, expansionist designs.

The Belgian delegation praised Iraq's peace initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990 to consolidate peace and stability in the region and to ward off the specter of war.

The Iraqi and Belgian sides reaffirmed that dialogue and negotiations are the best approach to a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution to the region's problems. The two sides urged that war be averted as it would cause of destruction.

They stressed that respect for human rights demands that the Iraqi people not be deprived of food, medicine, and baby milk and that the Child Right's Charter, the principles of the World Declaration on Human Rights, and the Geneva Convention be respected in all cases and under all circumstances.

The two sides noted the relationship among the Gulf, Palestine, and Lebanon problems and stressed the need to take into consideration President Saddam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative and European and other peace calls.

Swiss Peace Activist on Talks With Saddam

JN2711151790 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 27, INA—Swiss Professor Jean Ziegler [name as received] said that the Swiss peace delegation sincerely felt that Iraq is exerting every possible effort to avoid war in the Gulf region and that President Saddam Husayn is exploring all means to avert a catastrophe.

Professor Ziegler, who is a vice-chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Swiss Parliament told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that the Swiss team held frank and fruitful discussion with "President Husayn, the man of peace. The president knows the problems of Switzerland and those of Europe."

Professor Ziegler said that the Swiss peace delegation proposed the important question of a peace conference in Geneva.

"We raised that with President Husayn because, first, Switzerland is not a member of the United Nations, so it is not a party to the conflict. Second, we think, as President Husayn believes, that all problems of the region are linked. You can not talk about the Gulf issue without talking about the most important problem of the Palestinian people," said the Swiss delegate.

Professor Ziegler who represents the Swiss Socialist Party stressed that the Palestinian question is the most outstanding problem which still remained without solution.

"If there is no answer to the Palestinian question, there would be no peace in the Middle East," said the Swiss MP, adding, "We urge the world community to give prior attention to the Palestinian issue."

"President Saddam Husayn appreciated our endeavour and saw it useful. It is a realistic and concrete project because not only the Swiss Government, but also President Mitterrand of France and most European leaders support such a conference," stressed Professor Ziegler.

Theoretically, there are two other solutions. The first is the Arab solution, which would be the best, but this can not work as long as the American troops occupy Arab land. The second solution is the United Nations conference, but the U.N. is part of the conflict because it is biased against Iraq, so its conference is not likely to be accepted.

Hence, the only solution is an international peace conference which must be based on neutral grounds, concluded professor Ziegler.

Official Confers With Italian Peace Delegation

JN2711123490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] 'Adnan Dawud Salman, chief of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, today met with a

delegation of Italian peace messengers led by (Otlo Sarji Nadani) who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, Dawud Salman presented to the delegation a detailed explanation of the nature of the regional situation and its developments. He indicated that the United States is threatening to resort to war through begging some world votes so that it can force the passage of a UN resolution to be added to its unjust resolutions against Iraq.

(Otlo Sarji Nadani) expressed thanks and appreciation for the Iraqi leadership and people for giving him the chance to gain firsthand knowledge of the regional situation and to live amidst the generous Iraqi people. He affirmed that he earnestly seeks to explain facts to the European peoples and to highlight the Iraqi position which seeks to achieve peace and stability and to avert the dangers of a devastating war in the region.

Sudanese Minister Comments on Egyptian 'Threats'

JN2711203990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Sudanese Culture and Information Minister Muhammad Khawjali Salihin has praised President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to all the region's problems, including the Palestine question.

In a statement published by the newspaper AL-'IRAQ today, he said that the American presence in the region, whether great or small, is rejected. He added: Our objective in Sudan is to make the Arab region free of any foreign presence, be it American or non-American.

Muhammad Khawjali Salihin added: The Arab nation, by virtue of its political heritage, wise leaders, and enlightened peoples, can resolve its problems within the Arab framework without foreign interference.

Salihin expressed his rejection and denunciation of the economic blockade against Iraq, stressing that the aggressive approach of the United States and what it has embarked on constitute a crime and an unacceptable inhuman action from a state that claims to safeguard human rights but at the same time is violating the rights of the noble Iraqi people.

Regarding Egyptian threats to Sudan, the minister said: These threats are part of a media campaign by some hireling and suspect Egyptian newspapers and hoarse voices that have received the price for their agentry in advance. He said that these voices have thrown themselves into the arms of imperialism and Zionism, and we have no consideration for them, especially since we know their background and objectives.

Salihin praised the Iraqi-Sudanese to promote media cooperation between the two fraternal countries, adding that the talks were held in a fraternal spirit and with a high sense of pan-Arab responsibility toward the serious challenges facing the Arab nation, and toward the hostile media campaign led by the imperialist-Zionist circles.

Concluding his statement to AL-'IRAQ, the Sudanese minister greeted the Iraqi people and their heroic steadfastness in the face of the hostile American economic and military campaign.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Delegation Resumes Talks

JN2611210290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi-Iranian talks continued at the Foreign Ministry today. The talks are aimed at bolstering bilateral relations to serve the two countries' interests on the basis of good neighborliness and the endeavor to enhance peace and stability in the region.

The talks arise from the agreement between the two countries' leaders to continue discussions to promote and strengthen bilateral ties. The Iraqi side was headed by Riyadh al-Qaysi, director of the Organizations and Conferences Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian side by Mostafa Ha'eri-Fuman, director general of the Gulf Desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Almost 200 Prisoners of War Return 26 Nov

JN2611192890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1912 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Excerpt] A new group of returning prisoners of war, including 199 Iraqi prisoners, arrived in the homeland by air today. [passage omitted]

Consular Agreement Signed With Vietnam 27 Nov

JN2711162990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—A consular agreement was signed between the Republic of Iraq and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam here today.

The agreement deals with the organization of consular relations to serve the citizens of both countries. The head of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Department signed the agreement for the Republic of Iraq, and Pham Quoc Bao, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Baghdad signed for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Paper Warns of U.S. 'Blackmail' of Security Council

JN2711090690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has warned the United Nations and the UN Security Council against American blackmail to provide international legitimacy to its criminal resolutions against Iraq.

In an editorial today, the paper says: The process of turning the UN Security Council into a U.S. Security

Council has become a top priority of the U.S. Administration under Bush, which is now occupying and invading Arab territories and waters in collaboration with Western states, with the aim of carrying out aggression against Iraq.

The paper refers to the voices that are getting louder in the American street, the Congress, and in the world against the military option to which the American president and his administration adhere, voices that are calling for a settlement in this region which is important to the whole world.

The paper stresses the need to reinforce the role of the United Nations and its institutions to mobilize the international atmosphere and promote international cooperation to reject the policy of force and threats that is pursued by the American president and his administration in the region against the UN Security Council. This U.S. policy is aimed to divert the United Nations from its original task of averting wars and achieving just peace for all mankind, and to subjugate it to the U.S. policy that conflicts with the Charter of the United Nations and its basic tasks.

The paper stresses: All sides are now dutybound, not only to reject the American terrorism against the UN Security Council but also to work by all means against the United States' attempts to give international legitimacy to its criminal resolutions against Iraq. Washington's latest decision is to force the UN Security Council to adopt a military resolution that would help Bush's aggression against Iraq and ignite a conflagration whose limits are unpredictable, and which will envelop the region and the whole world.

AL-THAWRAH Says Bush Obstructing Peace

JN2811090490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0727 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has held those who will meet at the UN Security Council tomorrow to pass an American aggression resolution responsible for giving the United States a free hand to enable it to launch war against Iraq under the United Nations' flag.

In an editorial today, the paper stresses that those who are trying to help Bush issue a war resolution and bestow legitimacy on his flagrant aggressive scheme, at a time when the international circle of peace is expanding and growing, are not only distorting the United Nations' message and role of spreading peace, stability, and security, they are also harming its reputation and prestige to the extreme.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq will have nothing to do with any resolution issued by the UN Security Council under the current American hegemony. Such a resolution will not affect Iraq's clear principled stand, and will not force it to renounce or relinquish its historical national rights.

The paper adds: If Bush wagers that the war he wants to ignite against Iraq would achieve his wishes and aspired results and objectives, then he is only deluding himself by this stupid wagering. It says that Bush and those he is trying to use as fuel for his aggressive war should realize full well that their aggression against Iraq will not achieve any of the results or objectives they aspire for, and it will backfire on them.

The paper adds: Let Bush and his allies know well that strong Iraq, which withstood the test of war for eight years, and emerged from this test stronger and mightier, is able to stand fast, fight, and offer sacrifices for more years. The invaders will only reap defeat and inevitable catastrophe. The paper notes the United States' rejection of dialogue and its determination to close all doors leading to a peaceful solution, stressing great Iraq's resolute and decisive refusal to allow anyone, no matter who he is, to dictate his conditions and will on it. The paper holds the U.S. President responsible for obstructing and foiling a peaceful solution and for pushing the situation to the brink of explosion.

The paper emphasizes that all the lies and pretexts Bush is trying to peddle cannot conceal the imperialist scheme of aggression against Iraq, and its evil objectives, or the imperialist ambitions and the interests of oil monopolies that stand behind this scheme.

Bush Remarks on World's Impatience Ridiculed

JN2811093590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has ridiculed Bush's allegations that the world's patience is at the end and that he must force Iraq to relinquish its rights and those of the Arab nation on behalf of the world.

In an article today, the paper wonders: If Bush says that his patience has run out only three months after Iraq regained part of its territories that were cut off by the British Foreign Ministry, what should we, the Arabs, say after we have been patient now for 43 years because the international community has not restored our inalienable legitimate rights that are recognized by the international community and the UN Security Council itself.

The paper adds: Why should the Arabs wait and be patient over the heinous injustice we have been and are being exposed to at the hands of the imperialists and Zionists, while Bush alleges that the whole world's patience has run out?

The paper stresses that Bush himself realizes that he is practicing cheap blackmail against the world's states, governments, and peoples through economic pressure and threats of his brutal force throughout the world.

The paper emphasizes that Bush is deluded if he believes that expediting the issuance of other unjust resolutions against the Arab nation could save him, his plans, and

the pillars of his aggression from the Arab nation's punishment that has been patient for 43 years. He is deluded, because it is the nation's patience over oppression and oppressors that has run out. However, it is now at the peak of its awakening, exercising its legitimate right of implementing its true international will, which is also the will of right, justice, and humanity.

'Aziz Affirms Stand on Return from Moscow

JN2711063890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad last night at the end of a one-day working visit to the USSR.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Tariq 'Aziz said that during the visit he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He said that they exchanged views on the latest regional developments. He affirmed Iraq's principled and firm position which calls for and works toward achieving a comprehensive peace throughout the region on the basis of single standards and criteria in accordance with His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

The foreign minister indicated that the successive resolutions passed by the UN Security Council [UNSC], including the draft UNSC resolution whose passage the Americans are relentlessly working to secure this week, confirm the double-standard approach being pursued by the UNSC as well as the injustice and prejudice demonstrated by the UNSC from the outset at the urging of the United States and thanks to its influence. He asserted that these resolutions do not serve the cause of peace.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that Iraq which believes in peace and justice cannot succumb to pressures and that it will continue to struggle steadfastly to realize peace and justice in the region, and to restore first and foremost the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz earlier met with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze and held talks with him on bilateral ties, current developments in the Arabian Gulf region, as well as the efforts currently under way to find a peaceful solution to the regional situation.

Assets of Al-Sabah Family Companies Confiscated

JN2711183990 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 25 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Baghdad, (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to confiscate the movable and immovable assets of companies registered in the names of the al-Sabah family members, whose personal assets had been confiscated in accordance with RCC decision No. 384 of 26 September 1990 and decision No. 395 of 9 October 1990. [passage omitted]

Saddam Meets RCC, Regional Command Members

JN2511185190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1832 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn met today with members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Arens Sees Increased Likelihood of War With Iraq

OW2711125090 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in an interview with NHK on 26 November that the likelihood of a military confrontation in the Middle East will increase more than ever if the UN Security Council adopts a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

[Begin Arens recording in English] The possibility is certainly there, and I think the possibility has increased now that the United States has asked the UN Security Council to provide authorization for the use of force. This should be a very clear signal to Saddam Husayn that in fact the whole free world is arrayed against him. Certainly, I think that the patience of the free world and the patience of President Bush, who stands as head of the coalition, is running out. [end recording]

On Iraq's development of nuclear weapons, Defense Minister Arens said that even though in 1981 Israel resorted to the means of bombing an Iraqi nuclear reactor to stop the development of such weapons by Iraq, it will be difficult to adopt such a measure at present since nuclear weapons plants are scattered all over Iraq.

On the other hand, Mr. Arens said that if President Saddam Husayn comes to possess nuclear weapons, it will be a serious threat to the entire world. He stressed the need for international cooperation to stop Iraq from developing nuclear weapons.

Envoy to El Salvador Comments on Preparedness

PA2811044190 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0353 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The Israeli Ambassador to El Salvador said today that his country's military might is enough to counter any attack from Iraq. Ambassador [David] Kohen said this morning, when being interviewed by the Good Morning Newscast, that the Israeli military might is enough to counter Iraqi aggression, which is supported by the Arab community, despite his country's limited territorial area.

[Begin Kohen recording] We have airplanes flying on a 24-hour basis. That is no secret. I am not revealing a secret here. We have military airplanes flying on a 24-hour basis and they are prepared for any attack.

We have a relatively small army and the reserves are small. I, my neighbor, my brother, my fellow workers—we are all soldiers in the reserve army. We all have our bases, our personal weapons, and our armored vehicles depending on each one's position within the Armed Forces. We must be prepared 24-hours a day for the moment when we are called. We must be ready to get up and move to the war front. Therefore, we are prepared. [end recording]

The Israeli ambassador said that given the continous threats from Iraq, his country has sought the United States' support, specifically in the information sector. He said that the North Americans have sophisticated radars and they can alert our authorities about an attack being launched.

Also Kohen said that his country's intelligence has detected the Iraqi Government's plans to attack Israel with missiles armed with nuclear warheads and biological bombs containing viruses that could unleash dangerous epidemics.

Developments Relating to Shamir-Bush Meeting

Shamir Has 'No New Proposals'

TA2811115090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The scope of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's talks in Washington early next month is growing. The final date for the meeting with President Bush in the White House was set for 11 December.

Sources close to the prime minister have been stressing in the past few days that Shamir will tell Bush that he has no new proposals and that it would be better to wait until the Gulf crisis is over before dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau said last night that Shamir will be in Washington for two full days and that, in addition to meeting with Bush, he will confer with Vice President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. He will also confer with congressional leaders and address the media.

The sources added that it is possible that there will be preparatory talks between Israeli and American officials to work out the subjects expected to be raised in the Bush-Shamir meeting. It is also possible that the mission of Dennis Ross, the director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, which was worked out before the Bush-Shamir meeting was decided on, will be either canceled or delayed.

Reports reaching Jerusalem said that the aim of Ross's visit is to clarify whether Israel has "new ideas" to get the political process restarted.

Shamir Urged To Forego Meeting

TA2711145690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Nov 90 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "An Unnecessary Meeting"]

[Text] The Jabotinsky Prize is usually awarded in New York at a very nice ceremony. Hundreds of nationalist Jewish men in black tuxedos and women in sleek evening

gowns gather in the elegant hall of a luxurious hotel. They eat kosher roast beef, listen to nationalist speeches, and dote on the national prize laureate. On one occasion it was Menahem Begin, and next month it is supposed to be Yitzhaq Shamir. It would be better, though, if instead of dragging Shamir to the United States, they would trouble themselves to come here. These days, when we have so many desolate elegant halls and so many empty luxurious hotels, it would have been a nice gesture if these nationalist Jews held their ceremony here. Not only would it be a gesture, but they would actually be fulfilling an important nationalist mission, since if they came here Shamir would not happen to be on "a private visit" in the United States. If he did not happen to be there—to judge by the bizarre wording of Bush's invitation—the Bush-Shamir meeting would not materialize, and it is very important that such a meeting should not materialize.

I am not saying this to defend the honor of the prime minister whom the administration has been avoiding as if he had the plague. The poor thing! He had been willing to travel to New York for the International Day of the Child, but even then Bush could not find one hour available in his agenda. Imagine that! Nor am I saying this out of hurt pride that Jewish organizations had to plead with Bush to consent to give an audience to Shamir, who finally heard (on the radio!) Bush say in Cairo that "he would be glad to see Shamir during his private visit in the United States in about two weeks." Let there be no misunderstandings about this "happening to be" in America for a private visit. If Shamir did not "happen to be" in America, there would be no meeting.

Let us forget our hurt pride and look for the logic. Logic has it that a meeting under such circumstances and in such conditions had better not be held. Nothing good can come out of it.

This is neither the time, the hour, the issue, nor the proper climate for such a meeting. Such a meeting does by definition mean trouble because we will be dealing with a President whose entire political future is now on the line. He must make up his mind whether to go to war or not. He is restless, aggressive, nervous, moody, and prone to verbal outbursts—and with reason. After all, the United States has been called upon to help dictators A, B, and C to eliminate their brother, dictator D, in order to reinstate dictator E, who has been deprived of his country. This is not exactly a war for noble democratic values or between the forces of enlightenment and the forces of darkness. This is a feud between despotic regimes which America, being the world's policeman, has been called upon to settle.

Small wonder that Bush is having a hard time delivering the message of war to his compatriots. Such a hyper President had better not be approached by an Israeli prime minister at this time, particularly if that prime minister is Shamir.

After all, Shamir has nothing new to offer as far as bilateral issues are concerned, and it does not look like the administration has anything to offer either. This is hardly the right time to start solving the Palestinian problem. If there is nothing to talk about, why meet? We know why: because Shamir is sore that Bush has been avoiding him and that Israel has been relegated to the role of the other woman. On the other hand, Bush agreed to the meeting only to allay the mounting rage of America's Jews against the apparent removal of Israel from the anti-Iraqi alliance.

I really do not understand why we are sorry, rather than glad, that the administration has left us out. The U.S. approach puts the crisis outside the Israeli context, and that is rather good. Would there not be more reason to worry if, for instance, the Americans asked us to get militarily involved in an offensive against Iraq? Our pride may have been hurt, but if the Americans ultimately destroy Iraq's military infrastructure, Israel's security will be the better for it. Otherwise, within a few years we could perhaps find ourselves alone and facing Iraq, a nuclear superpower.

If Bush wants us to keep our distance, that is definitely good for us, especially if he does the job he is expected to do. A meeting with him now means trouble. A word might be uttered out of place. There might be a slip of the tongue. Differences could leak out. And if military action is or is not taken soon after the meeting, then somebody will probably put the blame on us. We would be well advised to be in a position where nobody can accuse us of getting them into a mess or blame us for anything.

Going back to the issue at hand, such a meeting is unnecessary. Bush does not want it, so why force it? Shamir, please invite your nationalist friends in New York to pack their tuxedos and evening gowns and come here, and leave it to Bush to deal with al-Asad, Fahd, and al-Sabah, the knights of democracy and defenders of the free world. We will meet Bush the day after the war. We will have lots of things to talk about.

Developments Regarding Relations With Egypt

Concern Over Detention of Citizens

TA2411172790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Israeli elements have expressed concern in view of the numerous cases in which Israelis were detained by Egyptians at the Taba border crossing. Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports that a Jerusalem youth and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier were detained there the day before yesterday after they were found in possession of gun magazines. The soldier was released that same day, but the Jerusalem youth, Gil Arad, 27, was tried at the al-Nuwaybi' detention cell today and transferred to al-Tur.

Levi on 'Atmosphere of Terror'

TA2611113590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi says there can be no peaceful coexistence in an atmosphere of terror. He said Israel is demanding that Egypt take the necessary steps so that incidents as yesterday's attack do not recur. Speaking to a visiting delegation of French Jewish leaders, Levi said Israel paid heavily for peace with Egypt, and Cairo must respond with severe punishment against those who carry out such attacks.

Paper on Security Cooperation

TA2611160090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 90 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Egypt Is Not Cooperating With Israel in the Fight Against Fundamentalism]

[Text] The attack on the Egyptian border proves that the penetration of fundamentalist elements into the Egyptian armed forces is more pervasive and dangerous than the picture presented by the Egyptian authorities. It also shows that since the inception of the Gulf crisis there is a greater possibility that hostile operations may be launched against Israeli targets as well.

The headquarters of the organization responsible for yesterday's murders near the Egyptian border, the Islamic Jihad Organization Bayt-al-Maqdis, is in Amman. This organization is also responsible for the murder of the Israeli tourists on a bus in the Sinai Peninsula [February 1990]. The conclusion to be drawn from the two clashes on the Lebanese border—the sinking of the terrorist boat on its way to Israel and the detonation of a kamikaze human bomb—is that, despite the weakening of the Lebanese militias and the evacuation of their forces from Beirut, Israel will have to maintain its control over the security zone and continue its activity even further north.

The attacks yesterday on three of Israel's borders were not interconnected, but Islamic fundamentalist incitement apparently played a large part in two of the incidents: the attack on the Egyptian border and the bomb explosion in the Lebanese security zone. It appears that this incitement has not won over Jordanian soldiers exclusively. It has also caught on in the Egyptian army and security forces. The difference is that King Husayn has accorded extremist elements, including the Islamic Jihad Organization Bayt- al-Maqdis, almost complete freedom of action in Jordan, even when he knew that they were behind acts of sabotage and murder against Israeli targets, while the Egyptians have encountered problems in controlling and implementing their war against these elements, which threaten Mubarak's regime.

Ostensibly, Israel and Egypt share information on this matter; however, Egypt's cooperation with Israel in confronting this issue is mere lip service and purely perfunctory. Up until today, Egypt has still not transferred updated and detailed information as to the results of its investigation into the murder of the Israeli tourists on the bus. Israel has uncovered more by virtue of its own inquiries than anything it has officially heard from Egypt. Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni was reminded of this fact yesterday, when he met Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The security guards and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol which arrived at the scene of the murder yesterday could have launched a manhunt after the murderer and it is estimated that they could have easily caught up with him if they would have entered Egyptian territory. The strict orders regarding this matter, however, stopped them from crossing the border.

The solution needed to secure calm on this border is not the same as that suitable and applicable to the Lebanese or Jordanian border. Israel cannot send elite units to the Egyptian border as well. It is clear, however, that there will have to be new regulations for traveling on the roads near the Egyptian border and for Israeli tourists in Egypt. An upgrading of the level of intelligence is called for, and perhaps the regulations governing opening fire near the border should also be updated.

Egyptians Investigate Bus Attack

TA2711150690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Four Egyptian Army officers came to the Ra's al-Naqb border crossing this afternoon. Escorted by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers, Foreign Ministry personnel, and police, they then left for the site of the attack two days ago. Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports that the delegation went to Nahal Shani, which served as the infiltration and escape route for the Egyptian soldier, and that its members inspected footprints and other clues for approximately two hours. From there the delegation left for Yoseftal Hospital in Elat, and they are now interviewing the physicians about the treatment of the victims.

Arens Sees 'No Room' for Lebanon Strategy Change

TA2711163390 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1530 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs reporter Moshe Shlonsky outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem "after the cabinet session" on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] [Arens] The five troops who were killed last night join the 54 who have been killed since the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployed in the security strip. To our deep regret, the great effort that has been made to secure the northern part of the country—the successful effort, I should say—also exacts a price, and last night we paid a very dear price.

[Shlonsky] In fact, this is the third serious incident in Lebanon in one week: We shot at a terrorist vessel this week, a female terrorist on a kamikaze mission blew herself up near an IDF patrol, and now this latest incident. Is something happening there that might warrant a change in our thinking?

[Arens] There is no room for a change in our thinking. In fact, the IDF is active nearly every night, usually suffering no casualties, which is why there are no reports of its activity. Last night, however, things ended badly.

[Shlonsky] The Air Force raided some targets in Lebanon a short while ago. What were they?

[Arens] The planes struck terrorist targets in Lebanon. As everyone knows, Lebanon—especially the southern part of it—is teeming with terrorist squads belonging to all the terrorist organizations imaginable. We battle against them day in and day out from the sea, on land, and in the air.

[Shlonsky] Will we consequently somewhat alter the IDF's ambush activity or initiate missions farther north of the security strip?

[Arens] As you know, we do that as well. Some of our ambushes are laid inside the security zone, as was the case last night; others are laid north of the security zone. The Navy operates off the Lebanese coast, and the Air Force operates in Lebanese airspace.

Netanyahu on 'Reexamining' South Africa Ties

TA2611110790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Israel is "reexamining its ties with South Africa as a result of the changes taking place in that country," Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday after meeting with a senior South African diplomat. No further details were available.

The meeting between Netanyahu and Assistant Secretary John Ferguson, who is in charge of Middle Eastern and Far Eastern affairs, was the most senior official encounter with a South African official since Israel formulated new rules concerning ties with South Africa more than three years ago.

Netanyahu expressed the government's appreciation of the South African government's decision to begin negotiations with blacks and change its apartheid system.

In March 1987, the government pledged to downgrade its relationship with South Africa, because of apartheid. Nonetheless, foreign sources have reported on ongoing military ties with Pretoria.

Netanyahu, who is leaving today for a conference in Washington of Israeli consuls general, was not available for comment.

Ambassador in Prague Presents Credentials

TA2811122790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 90 p 10

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Yo'el Sher, the first Israeli ambassador ever named to Czechoslovakia, presented his credentials to President Vaclav Havel yesterday. Earlier this year, Czechoslovakia renewed ties with Israel, after severing relations 23 years ago. But even until 1967, Israel never held full ambassadorial ties with Prague. Sher's last postings were in Paris and Hong Kong.

Direct Flights From USSR Closed to Immigrants

TA2511070090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Excerpts] Moscow—Soviet Jews yesterday reacted bitterly to the announcement that El Al and Aeroflot will begin direct flights later this month—but that immigrants will not be allowed to fly on them. [passage omitted]

The announcement that the charter flights will soon begin came later Thursday [22 November] night after extensive negotiations between El Al President Rafi Har-Lev and top Aeroflot officials. According to the agreement, the Tel Aviv-Moscow and Moscow-Tel Aviv charter flights will take place once a week, with the possibility of more flights being added later. The flights will be open to businessmen, tourists and cargo.

All the flights will be via El Al, as Aeroflot officials insisted that they now have no aircraft to spare.

The decision by El Al to go along with Soviet insistence that the direct flights be closed to immigrants appeared to represent a shift in the Israeli stand. In October, Israel consul-general-designate Arye Levin said the barrier to concluding a direct flight agreement was Israel's insistence that they should be open "to anyone who wants to fly"—including immigrants. But on Thursday, Levin said that he would not oppose an agreement that promoted business relations, even if the flights were closed to immigrants. [passage omitted]

Agreement To Set Up Two Model Farms in USSR

TA2511153990 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Nov 90 p B1

[Report by Aharon Pri'el]

[Text] Israel will set up two model agricultural farms in the Soviet Union, one in Stavropol in the northern Caucasus area and another near Moscow. An agreement to this effect was reached yesterday by Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan and Professor Aleksandr Nikonov, president of the Soviet Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

The farms will be operated by the academy and will demonstrate the application of modern technologies, including know-how and machinery, used in Israel on all types of crops.

The agriculture minister yesterday escorted a delegation of academy members on a tour of the Besor District and Kibbutz Hafez Hayyim. He said that Israel had been approached with a request to cultivate vast areas in the Soviet Union with modern methods to raise the level of the crops.

In addition to the establishment of the two farms, Israeli experts have been asked to rehabilitate existing farms through the implementation of modern production methods of transportation, storage, and handling of produce.

Dan Tzimhi, the director of Agrexco [Agricultural Produce Exporting Co.], and Uri Simhoni, head of the Agriculture Ministry's department in charge of promoting trade with the Soviet Union, will leave for the Soviet Union next Sunday [2 December] to arrange the issue of agricultural exports from Israel to the Soviet Union.

Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan yesterday said this was "a barter deal. Among other things, Israel will get oil and coal in exchange for the agricultural produce."

[A report by Nahum Tarday on the same page notes that "an Israeli chamber of commerce was opened in Moscow in the presence of Soviet Government officials and an Israeli economic delegation. Delegation leader Dan Gillerman said during the ceremony that the State of Israel is interested in the expansion of trade, economic ties, and cooperation in all economic and commercial issues with the Soviet Union.

["Vladimir Volanov, Soviet deputy trade and industry minister, name and title as published, said that the opening of the Israeli chamber of commerce would help enhance economic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel."]

Knesset Speaker Shilansky To Visit USSR

TA2611193990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky will visit the USSR in two weeks. Our Knesset correspondent reports that the speaker will be the highest-ranking Israeli to visit the USSR. The speaker will visit the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, but most of his time will be spent in Latvia and Lithuania, where he was born and where he spent the holocaust. He will confer with the leaders of these republics and meet with Jewish leaders.

Baraq To Succeed Shomron as IDF Chief of Staff

TA2511173090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The next chief of staff will be Major General Ehud Baraq, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein announced this evening. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Gutman] At the end of the weekly cabinet session, the cabinet secretariat released the following communique: In accordance with the Basic Law: the Army and the defense minister's recommendation, the cabinet decided to appoint Gen. Ehud Baraq as the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] chief of staff as of 1 April 1991. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron will end his duties as the IDF's chief of staff when Gen. Ehud Baraq enters office. On behalf of the government, the prime minister conveyed his appreciation to Gen. Dan Shomron and wished Gen. Baraq success. [passage omitted]

Our military reporter Amir Fink presents some biographical details about Gen. Baraq:

[Fink] Gen. Baraq was born 48 years ago in Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon in the Hefer Valley. He enlisted in the IDF in 1959. He served in many and diverse command positions: platoon commander, company commander, deputy battalion commander, and battalion commander of an elite unit. Many of the operations in which he participated cannot yet be publicized. Gen. Baraq was commander of a standing army tank battalion, commander of a reserves division, and commander of an Armored Corps standing army division.

Among others, he served in the following staff posts: as a colonel in the General Staff's operations division, commander of a patrol unit in the Six-Day War, and commander of a tank battalion in the Yom Kippur War in the Southern Command. In 1974 he was appointed commander of a tank commander training course, and in 1980 he was appointed commander of a battalion commander training course.

Gen. Baraq holds the Distinguished Service Medal and three other citations. Among others, he participated in the Aviv Ne'urim operation in Beirut in 1973 in which leading terrorists were killed. Gen. Baraq was promoted to the rank of general at the age of 39 and made head of the Planning Department. In April 1983 he became the chief of IDF Intelligence. [passage omitted]

In May 1987 Gen. Baraq was appointed deputy chief of staff. He was considered a contender in the previous run for the job of chief of staff. [passage omitted]

Gen. Baraq has served in four positions in the General Staff in the rank of general, an exceptional number of positions which may attest to his ability to tackle a variety of challenges. His associates say Gen. Baraq is a doer, an excellent military man on the one hand, and an intellectual and theoretician on the other.

Gen. Baraq holds a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from Hebrew University and a master's degree in computer programming analysis from Stanford University in California. He is married and is the father of three daughters.

Two No-Confidence Motions Defeated in Knesset

TA2611173790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The Knesset has defeated the motion of no confidence in the government submitted by HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Shinuy, the Progressive List for Peace, and Darawshah's party in the wake of the prime minister's statement which created a linkage between Eretz Yisra'el stretching from the sea to the River Jordan with the current wave of immigration, and in the wake of the coalition agreement between the Likud and Agudat Yisra'el. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that 48 Knesset members [MK's] supported the no-confidence motion and 57 voted against. The two Moledet MK's abstained.

The Knesset also rejected the no-confidence motion submitted in the wake of the cabinet announcement regarding the establishment of a Jerusalem Affairs Ministry [Hamisrad Le'inyeney Yerushalayim]. On this motion, 56 MK's voted against, 48 in favor, and the two Moledet MK's abstained. The Knesset endorsed the cabinet announcement on the establishment of the Jerusalem Affairs Ministry and on the appointment of Avraham Verdiger as deputy minister in that ministry.

Cabinet Approves New Taxes, New State Budget

TA2811054890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The cabinet has approved a five-percent increase in the income tax and raised the value added tax [VAT] by another two percent. The surprise measures were approved by the cabinet last night after its marathon session on the new budget. The new steps are to pay for immigrant absorption, another 200 million shekels for defense spending, and other government outlays.

The new state budget of 26 billion shekels was approved by the cabinet. The five-percent income tax hike will go into effect on 1 January. The new VAT of 18 percent will go into force some time before 1 April. The new VAT rate is expected to add another 700 million shekels to the state coffers.

In other moves, the cabinet decided to make bigger cuts to immigrant families than those proposed by the Finance Ministry. Three thousand shekels will be slashed rather than the proposed 2,500. The new Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs, set up for Agudat Yisra'el and the coalition agreement, is to cost 3 million shekels. The cabinet also approved monthly grants to yeshiva students from 200 to 240 shekels. The overall deficit in the budget is 9.5 billion shekels.

Water Shortage Said To Lead to Water Imports

Turkish Negotiations Reported

TA2411104590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Israel might have to import water, even this year, the minister of agriculture told our reporter Hayim Hecht. Our reporter has learned that negotiations with several Turkish firms to import large quantities of water in tanks will end within a very short time.

Private Importation 'Welcome'

TA2511153690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Report by Le'a Zinder]

[Excerpts] At noon today, the water commissioner gave the order to stop pumping water from the Kinneret. A spokesman for the Meqorot water company said a few moments ago that so little water is being pumped from the Kinneret anyway—up to 200,000 cubic meters a day—that it won't make much difference. The Meqorot management is now in emergency session to decide what to do in response to the water commissioner's order.

And meanwhile today, the water in the Kinneret reached a new low: only seven centimeters from the so-called red line of 230 meters below sea level. [passage omitted]

With this latest crisis in water, at long last conservation may take its rightful place on the national agenda. The minister of agriculture, Refa'el Eytan, believes the only thing that can help conserve water is raising the price significantly. He is reportedly considering raising the price of water by almost 100 percent.

The possibility of importing water to Israel, once vehemently denied, is now discussed openly. Eytan says the Government of Israel will not import water, but will welcome private importing of water at a reasonable cost and will make the necessary arrangements for its storage.

The Meqorot spokesman emphasizes that importing water will not solve the acute problem. He stresses that Israel's water economy is operating at an annual deficit of 2 billion cubic meters. [passage omitted]

Scuffle Cuts Short Temple Mount Faithful Visit

TA2711183690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The Jerusalem police this morning permitted 20 members of the Temple Mount Faithful movement to visit the Temple Mount for the first time since the bloody incident that took place there [8 October], but the visit was cut short.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police insisted that the Temple Mount Faithful members visit the site on an individual basis and not as a

group. After three of them went inside, an argument broke out at the entrance between the Temple Mount Faithful and several Arabs, and words led to shoves.

The commander of the Old City police contingent immediately ordered the visit over out of fear that tempers would get out of control.

Events Relating to Kakh Movement Activities

Police Ordered To End Threats

TA2611183890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The police commissioner today ordered the Jerusalem police to take steps to put an end to the threats to and harassment of local shop owners employing Arab workers. In a discussion attended by senior police commanders, Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner noted that he takes a grave view of the phenomenon.

Deputy Commander Arye Bibi, the Jerusalem Police commander, said that this matter is now at the head of the priorities of the capital police.

The attorney general has instructed the Police Investigations Branch director to urgently investigate the Kakh threats against Jerusalem businessmen who employ Arabs. He stressed that everything necessary should be done at once to uproot the phenomenon. He believed that the evidence amassed so far against Kakh members provides sufficient material to file charges against them. [passage omitted]

In reaction to the detention of its members, the Kakh movement tonight issued a statement saying that after the government persecuted Rabbi Me'ir Kahana, it is now attempting to eradicate his movement. The detentions will not break the Kakh movement, which will continue to encourage Jewish labor, said the statement.

Detention of Activists Extended

TA2711190390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court today extended by six days the remand in detention of two leading KAKH activists arrested yesterday, Movement spokesman No'am Federman and general secretary Tiran Pollak. Judge Moshe Ravid said that after examining classified material there is suspicion linking the two to incitement and threats made against Jewish store owners in the capital who employ Arabs. Judge Ravid also said that to release the two would jeopardize the inquiry. The third leading KAKH activist arrested yesterday, Barukh Marzel, was released. Federman and Pollak have begun an indefinite hunger strike in protest against their continuing detention, and say they will appeal today's decision. Jerusalem police today arrested another KAKH member they believe is connected to the affair, and further arrests have not been ruled out.

In the Bukharin neighborhood of Jerusalem, there were still posters on walls today reading no Arabs employed here, and although it was quiet in the capital today, none of the dozens of Arabs that had been dismissed by their Jewish employers have yet been rehired.

Palestinians Stirring Nationalism in Al-Tayyibah

TA2611145890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Nov 90 p A10

[Report by Ehud Rabinowitz]

[Text] The security forces have warned against a new phenomenon that has recently become rampant in the Triangle. Hundreds of residents of the territories who work in Israel have recently moved to live in the area.

One of the main centers is the town of al-Tayyibah. Over the past few years the town has become a "place of refuge" for residents of the territories, especially for those suspected of collaboration with the Israeli authorities who are threatened by hit squads. These have been joined in recent weeks by hundreds of Arab laborers who are employed in Israel and are trying to evade the authorities. It is estimated that there are currently 3,000 residents of the territories in al-Tayyibah. Some of them have used family connections, while others arrived in town in the wake of romantic affiliations or criminal activity. Some of the families were helped to relocate to al-Tayyibah by the defense establishment.

Against this background, there is an atmosphere of tension in al-Tayyibah, and there were several incidents a few weeks ago in which firebombs were hurled at homes inhabited by "immigrants." Every hut, tin shed, or empty room in town has been commandeered by the newcomers.

Security forces said that the steadily increasing number of workers from the territories constitutes a real security risk. They added that the Palestinians have already had a marked impact on the level of nationalistic and criminal activity in the Triangle. In violent demonstrations, which took place during the recent strike days, several youths from the territories were arrested in the town. They were suspected of inciting and participating in the disturbances.

Updates on Intifadah-Territories Incidents

22 November

TA2311122790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Nov 90 p 20

[Report by Matthew Seriphs and Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpts] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer shot and wounded a Palestinian from Bani-Suhaylah yesterday, after the man tried to drive his car through a

military checkpoint in the Gush Qatif settlement area in the south of the Gaza Strip. The man almost ran over soldiers manning the checkpoint, a spokesman for IDF Southern Command said.

The wounded man was identified by Palestinians as Ibrahim al-Qarra, 24.

The army said the officer fired in the air as the car approached the barrier, and then opened fire at the wheels of the car to force it to stop. The fire also wounded the driver, who was said to be in al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus in moderate condition.

Palestinians reported that seven others were wounded in clashes in other parts of the Strip.

In Jerusalem, Palestinian journalists staged a sit-in at the Arab Journalists' Association to protest against the administrative detention of Radwan, Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. Sources in East Jerusalem said about 200 journalists and sympathizers attended the meeting, including a number of foreign journalists and Israelis.

In Nabulus, the army yesterday and Wednesday [21 November] night sealed the homes of two Palestinians suspected of throwing firebombs at military vehicles and of a third suspected of killing an informer.

'Azim Maramash, 21, Nidal Musa, 22, and Amjadi Kilani, 22, were suspected of participating in interrogations of alleged informers and of throwing firebombs. The High Court of Justice turned down their families' appeals.

Military sources said that 30 suspects were arrested in Burqa' village northeast of Nabulus on Wednesday night during a search by troops for activists "suspected of hostile activity." The army released 20 of them after an interrogation and held 10, including some who had been sought by security forces. Local sources said most of those arrested were seized in a local billiard hall.

Local sources said that during clashes in Janin market, 12-year-old Muhammad Durash was wounded in the leg by a bullet and taken to Janin Hospital.

In Janin prison, inmates have been on a hunger strike since Sunday [18 November] to protest a ban on family visits since the murder of Master-Sergeant Kamal Faris, stabbed at the entrance to the jail two weeks ago by a man posing as a visitor. The prisoners say that family visits have been stopped since the stabbing because they refuse to sign a paper condemning Faris's killing.

In eastern neighborhoods of Janin on Wednesday night, about 400 persons marched in a pro-Fatah march, local sources said.

An Israeli from Yitzhar, south of Nabulus, told police that a shot was fired at him from a moving car as he was standing at Halamish junction, north of Ramallah, wounding him slightly in the arm. [passage omitted]

Green cards, banning their bearers from working in Israel, were issued at the Civil Administration office in Huwwarah, south of Nabulus, yesterday to 150 villagers from 'Aqrabah, while 18 from Nur al-Shams refugee camp, near Tulkarm, also received green cards. The Civil Administration is to issue 2,400 cards to Palestinians with records of security or criminal offenses.

[In another report on page 20 of the 23 November edition of THE JERUSALEM POST in English, Ron Kampeas adds: "Clashes between police and East Jerusalem residents continued near the Mount of Olives yesterday, while other parts of the capital remained quiet.

["An UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] school in Silwan, adjacent to the Mount of Olives, was closed after pupils stoned a passing Border Police foot patrol, a day after eight residents of neighboring Suwwanah were arrested in pre-dawn raids.

["Police closed the UNRWA preparatory school until Sunday after using tear gas and rubber bullets to scatter the stonethrowers. The elementary school was allowed to remain open.

["Yesterday's clash marked a week of tension in the Mount of Olives area, although other flashpoints in the capital, such as Shu'fat refugee camp and the Jabal al-Mukabar neighborhood, have remained quiet. A source close to the Palestinian leadership explained: 'There is a friendly competition among neighborhoods as to which area can keep the intifada alive—this week, the Mount of Olives area is ahead.'

["Eight Suwwanah residents were arrested in pre-dawn raids on Wednesday, several hours after a clash in which teargas grenades were lobbed by Border Police. Palestinians said that Border Police searched the village house to house, asking for youths names on a list."]

24 November

TA2511122090

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 November in a page 8 report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs states: "Masked men kidnapped and killed three Palestinians over the weekend, including a 70-year-old man involved in a blood feud. In one case, mainstream Palestinian groups condemned the killing.

"In Balatah camp in Nabulus, Husni Ahmad, 24, was dragged from his home Friday night. He was brought dying to al-Ittihad Hospital. The army imposed a curfew.

"In Janin, car salesman Sa'id Balawi was kidnapped and killed Friday. Fatah and the Popular Front published statements condemning the killing. No one has claimed responsibility for either death.

"A 70-year-old man was murdered by masked youths yesterday in a blood feud, after his brother killed a

member of their family, Palestinian and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said. Qasim Abadlah was attacked with knives and axes in al-Qarara village near Khan Yunus.

"The killing was unusual because Palestinians regularly attribute inter-Arab killings to the victim's cooperation with the authorities.

"Military sources said that in Tekoa, near the Jewish settlement of the same name, 'undercover troops' shot and wounded a 24-year-old man last night after breaking into a building from which stones were being thrown at vehicles.

"A member of a group of masked youths attacked a soldier as his patrol was entering al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday, Palestinian sources said. Another soldier opened fire, wounding the attacker and a second youth, while a third was caught after a chase.

"IDF sources said the soldier was slightly injured. Two of the youths were treated in Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon, one slightly injured, the second in moderate condition. All three were placed under arrest.

"Palestinians said the youths had been writing Fatah slogans calling for a strike today. A strike is to take place Thursday to mark the 1947 UN partition resolution.

"Gaza sources reported seven wounded in incidents involving the army yesterday. They said four were hurt in Rafah, one in al- Mughazi camp, one in Jabalyah and one in al-Burayj. The army had reports of three wounded. Arab sources said one was injured in Jabalyah camp Friday, but the army did not confirm this.

"In Nabulus, the Fatah-allied Revolutionary Security Apparatus, which Palestinians consider their Shin Bet, announced through loudspeakers that it was banning titles such as 'Black September' and 'Black Panthers', which have been used by several self-appointed informer-hunting groups.

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 25 November in a report by On Levi and Mikhal Sela' on page 1 states: "Brigadier General Amnon Strassnof, the military advocate general, has broadened the regulations for opening fire in the territories. According to the new instructions, the soldiers will be permitted to open fire at stone throwers even when they themselves are not in mortal danger if they perceive serious danger to someone else from the stone throwing.

The broadening of the regulations is intended to enable IDF soldiers to better confront the stone throwers. Official military sources last night reported that as part of operations against stone throwing, the IDF has deployed undercover squads at sensitive locations, whose task is to arrest and, if necessary, to hurt stone throwers."

In a similar piece by the same correspondents on page 5, DAVAR reports: "As part of the efforts of the security forces and the government to strike at moderate Palestinian elements, widespread arrests of Fatah supporters from the Palestinian political mainstream continued last week.

"Wafiq Abu-Sidu, a Gaza journalist and employee of Faysal al-Husayni's Institute of Arab Studies, was arrested in Gaza City on Thursday. Sa'id Iyad and 'Adil al-Hanna, also a journalist, were also arrested last week.

"The first person arrested during the current wave of arrests was Gaza doctor Ahmad al-Yazchi. Gaza sources estimate that dozens of people have been arrested. Some of them are still undergoing interrogation and some were sentenced to administrative detention at Qezi'ot detention center.

"Attorney Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban, a human rights activist, who was arrested a week ago, is still occupying a cell at the Civil Administration building in Gaza. His family told DAVAR that they had not been permitted to see him.

"Nasir 'Umar Namla, 31, a resident of the Sabra neighborhood of Gaza, was arrested last week, suspected of murdering 28-year-old Tzviya Gewirtz, from Bat Yam, who was murdered in Gaza approximately 10 days ago. Nasir reconstructed the murder on Thursday, and his brother Nabil, who was also arrested, turned over the knife his brother used in the murder."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 25 November in a page 9 report by Shraga Tzeiner states: "Defense Minister Moshe Arens decided to place a written reprimand in the files of Brigadier General Arye Ramot, the head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, and Brigadier General Tziv Poleg, who served as commander of the Gaza Strip until July 1990. This, because they did not adequately handle a complaint regarding the physical abuse of a boy in the al-Shati' refugee camp and thus prevented an exhaustive investigation that would have located the guilty soldiers."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 25 November reports that "a general strike was declared today in Gaza City and spread to the Jabalyah refugee camp in the northern part of the Strip."

25 November

TA2611110990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Nov 90 p 10

[Report by Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpts] The security forces yesterday summoned the prominent Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) leader, Dr. 'Abd-al- 'Aziz Rantisi, to Gaza's central jail for questioning and then released him, his brother told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

Rantisi, of Khan Yunus, was released from jail on September 4 after serving a 2 ½ year jail term for his involvement with Hamas at the start of the intifada. Two

prominent Gaza figures, Dr. Ahmad Yazchi, and lawyer Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban, both remain under arrest, provoking fears that Rantisi might face another period of detention.

Unofficial army sources confirmed that Rantisi had been arrested, but would give no reasons for his being questioned.

Meanwhile, Palestinians said that four persons were injured yesterday in clashes with the army: two were wounded in al-Shati' refugee camp, one in al-Mughazi camp, and one in al-Burayj. They were all treated at Gaza's al-Ahali Arab Hospital. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had reports of six wounded.

Palestinians said two journalists were arrested over the weekend, but could not give reasons for the arrests. The sources said that Mahmud Jamali, the head of the Gaza Journalists' Association, and Wafiq Abu-Sidu, were now under detention. The army had no report of the arrests. [passage omitted]

In the West Bank town of Tulkarm, Zaynab Zabada, 48, was hit by a rubber bullet in the leg, Palestinians said. The army did not confirm the incident. A curfew was lifted from Balatah refugee camp, local sources said. In Janin, a firebomb was thrown at a tax inspector's car.

The imam of the Imana mosque, near Janin, was arrested and the mosque's loudspeakers dismantled, Palestinians sources said, although they were unclear about the reason for the arrest.

26 November

TA2711150490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Nov 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs]

[Text] Soldiers clashed with high school students as they arrived at school in Qalqilyah yesterday, and responded with live fire and tear gas to the barrage of stones hurled at them while they were chasing other stonethrowers, military sources said. Officials of Nabulus' al-Ittihad Hospital said six youths, aged 13-17, were brought in from Qalqilyah with light to moderate wounds from rubber bullets sustained in the incident. Dozens of youths were reported treated locally for tear gas inhalation.

Qalqilyah sources said that students started throwing stones when they saw three men arresting youths in the street. After the incident, shopkeepers closed their stores and people converged on the Asadiyah al-Thanawiyah school to demonstrate against the soldiers.

Sa'id Shallash, 60, was hit by a military vehicle in the melee, and taken to Me'ir Hospital in Kefar Sava with fractures, local sources said.

The army declared Qalqilyah a closed military area.

In separate incidents, two youths were brought to al-Ittihad Hospital with bullet wounds sustained during clashes in Balatah and 'Askar refugee camps, in Nabulus, doctors said.

Gaza lawyer Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban was arrested for going to Tunis, former Gaza Bar Association head Fayiz Abu-Rahmah said yesterday, hinting that the prominent young attorney had met with PLO officials there. However, according to current Bar Association head Furayh Abu-Mudin, Abu-Sha'ban told him that he had not visited Tunis, but had been in Germany some time ago, and that the army was trying to frame him. Abu Sha'ban was arrested on November 19.

A Southern Command spokeswoman could not confirm the charges against him.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 27 November, in a page A1 report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin, writes: "Masked men entered the home of Tulkarm refugee camp mukhtar Hamid Mubarak and attacked him with knives." He was hospitalized at Tel Hashomer Hospital. "In Janin, an organization calling itself the Black Panther took responsibility for the murder of Sa'id Bal'awi, a 32-year-old car dealer, last weekend."

["The security forces have detained Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Amira, a 48-year-old journalist from Nabulus and the manager of East Jerusalem AL-SHA'B newspaper's office, on administrative detention orders. Since the beginning of the intifadah, 'Amira has been held several times in administrative detention. Before the intifadah, he served time in prison for membership in Fatah.

["Yesterday Nabulus attorney 'Adnan Abu-Layla was summoned to the Civil Administration office where he was handed a green ID card barring him from entering Israel. Abu-Layla, who has often represented security and administrative detainees, will be unable to meet with detainees held at Qezi'ot and prisons in Israel.

["The body of a taxi driver from al-Birah, who was killed by a number of shots fired by unknown persons, was found yesterday in a wooded area in the outskirts of Ramallah."]

Group Threatens Attacks Against U.S. Embassy

JN2811122290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1208 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In Amman, the Al-Aqsa Army Group [Majmu'at Jaysh al-Aqsa], an organization declaring itself for the first time, today threatened to attack the interests of countries which will vote in the UN Security Council for a resolution sanctioning the use of force against Iraq. This threat came in an anonymous telephone call to the AFP office in Amman.

The anonymous caller, who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the abovementioned organization, also warned the U.S. Embassy in Amman against sending its employees to the Jordanian desert to watch the movement of trucks between Jordan and Iraq. He threatened that the organization will destroy every embassy car within its reach.

Westerners Released by Iraq, Arrive in Amman

JN2711174390 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] A group of 18 Westerners released by Iraq arrived in Amman aboard two Iraqi Airways flights today. Also arriving aboard one of the planes were five Germans who said they had been in Kuwait since 7 August.

Further on Arrival

NC2711151490 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, Nov 27 (AFP)—Ten Britons, five Germans and three Americans arrived in the Jordanian capital Tuesday aboard regular Iraqi Airways flights from Baghdad after being authorized to leave Iraq. The former U.S. hostages were accompanied by six family members who had visited Baghdad at the invitation of the Iraqi authorities, while the Britons were with 16 relatives on a similar mission. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn decided Monday to release three of the 1,100 U.S. hostages in Iraq and occupied Kuwait following an appeal from their wives visiting Baghdad. On Saturday, the president released 10 of the almost 1,400 British hostages, and last Tuesday he decided to allow all 180 Germans to leave Iraq.

Communist Party Chief Says Bush Angered Arabs

JN2811082090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 90 p 5

[Excerpts] Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, has affirmed that what the United States fears most is a political solution of the Gulf crisis because this would not allow the United States to implement its aggressive desires and because it is against its designs in the Gulf region. In an interview with the MUNA PRESS FOUNDATION, Zayadin says that there should be a comprehensive mobilization to prevent the situation deteriorating into military confrontation, thus preventing the Americans from using weapons under the cover of peaceful international resolutions, because this would totally deplete our Arab resources. This would also lead to destroying the Arab nation's potentials, which we should employ in the battle against Zionism, the Israeli entity, and imperialism.

Dr. Zayadin said Bush's visit to the region aroused popular anger in Arab circles because it was aimed at igniting a destructive war in the region and drumming up support for war in the Arab countries, contrary to the desires of our people, and all developing and peace-loving nations. He said: We condemn the U.S. intervention in the region because it represents a threat to the entire Arab region and to Iraq's military and human capabilities, as well as to the Palestinian people's intifadah. [passage omitted]

Dr. Zayadin demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait as a first step toward settling the Gulf crisis. He said: The coming of the Americans was never to defend Saudi Arabia or the Kuwaiti shaykhs or international legitimacy, which it has been violating for years through numerous wars. He said: What imperialism wants is the oil, and the destruction of the Iraqi Army and all Iraq. Imperialism does not want any Arab country to rise regardless of which one, and no Arab individual to raise his finger in the face of the U.S. tyrant. Dr. Zayadin affirmed that it is possible to solve disputes between fraternal neighbors through peaceful means and negotiations. [passage omitted]

Omani Minister Denies Joint Mediation Effort

JN2711203590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Amman a short while ago. Upon his arrival, the guest minister made statements in which he answered journalists' questions. The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said:

[Begin recording] [Bin-'Abdallah] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First, I am very pleased to be in Amman. Of course, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, may God preserve him, has honored me with conveying an oral message to His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal. The message, no doubt, deals with the situation in the region. It is a continuation of consultations between the two monarchs. It is also an appropriate opportunity for me to meet with my brother and friend brother Marwan [al-Qasim] to discuss all that interests our two countries and all issues that can be done togather.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, there are reports that there is an Omani-Jordanian mediation with regard to the Gulf crisis. You were the first Gulf state to receive the Iraqi foreign minister, how true are these reports?

[Bin-'Abdallah] I would like to respond to such reports by saying that they are untrue. There is no mediation and we have no mediation intentions, be it an Omani mediation or what is called an Omani-Jordanian mediation.

This is untrue and no one has asked for such mediation. I think that we are still far away from mediation.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, how [words indistinct] this visit, the visit of the Iraqi foreign minister at this particular time to Oman?

[Bin-'Abdallah] I think that we are at a stage where we must exert all possible efforts and expand the circle of negotiations.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, how do you assess the outcome of your recent visit to Tehran, and the announcement that Iran will participate in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] meeting.

[Bin-'Abdallah] First, my visit was a routine visit to Tehran and was part of the consultations with the Iranian brothers. There is a move to expand these consultations with the aim, possibly, to hold a meeting between GCC foreign ministers and Iran. However, at present, there is no need for Iran to participate in any GCC meeting. [end recording]

No Egyptian Response on Student Applications

JN2711214390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 90 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Mumani]

[Text] A source at the Ministry of Higher Education has said that it has become clear that the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education does not wish to grant places at Egyptian universities and colleges to Jordanian students who applied to study there this year, 1990. The reasons for this have so far not been explained by the Egyptian authorities, despite the fact that the scholastic year at universities and colleges in Egypt started on 10 October.

The source added that the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education has been discussing the issue of these students with the concerned Egyptian parties for the past two months, since neither the ministry nor the Jordanian cultural attache in Cairo received a response from Egypt on their intention to accept or reject these students.

Article Views Iraqi 'Deconfliction' Note to U.S.

JN2711122290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

["U.S. Stand Against 'Deconfliction' Accord With Iraq is Recipe For War" by Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] As the U.S. rallies support for a United Nations Security Council resolution authorising the use of force against Baghdad, Iraqi official sources say that the government has not abandoned a proposal for bilateral consultations on how to avoid military incidents in the Gulf," and is still waiting for a reply from the Americans.

The sources believe that Washington is deliberately giving no answer to the Iraqi request, made three months ago, not to use any military accident in the Gulf as a pretext to provoke a military confrontation or to step up political and psychological pressures on Iraq.

A joint investigation conducted by the Jordan Times in Baghdad and the Christian Science Monitor in Washington confirmed that the administration had received the Iraqi note but decided to ignore it.

State Department sources confirmed the receipt of the note, which was conveyed on Aug. 21. But the American sources said that the U.S. ignored the Iraqi request since it suspected that Baghdad might use such an agreement as a means of shifting the blame onto the U.S. for any military incident in the Gulf.

Other well-informed sources in Washington said the decision to ignore the request was preceded by a short debate on whether to officially decline the offer or to neglect it.

The State Department sources noted that there were already internationally recognised procedures for avoiding incidents in air and sea and on the ground.

Consequently, U.S. officials maintained, it was unnecessary to respond to what they viewed as an Iraqi move to obtain information on U.S. military movements in the Gulf region and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The Iraqi memorandum suggested a meeting of experts from both sides to avoid accidents. The note referred to a previous agreement signed in 1987 between the U.S. and Iraq to avoid accidents in the Gulf during the Iraq-Iran war.

Some Middle East experts in Washington argued that it was counter- productive—for U.S. purposes—to resume bilateral talks under the 1987 agreement since under the new conditions of the Gulf crisis the goal of the U.S. in the region is "to keep (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn off guard."

Although both sides refuse to disclose the provisions of the agreement, Western military experts revealed that the accord involved a special set-up by which Iraqi pilots used call signals to alert the U.S. Navy and forces in the Gulf that they were Iraqi planes. "But the set-up can no longer work considering the mutual hostilities today," one Western expert said. "In the earlier case the Americans would know that the planes were Iraqi and not Iranian. It was a very different situation."

The experts argued that an Iraqi request to update the agreement was unrealistic since the two cannot be expected to share military information at this stage of mutual distrust.

The Iraqi request and insistence reflect concern in Baghdad that an accidental air or naval clash would spark off an all-out war in the region.

Arab military experts warn that the U.S. refusal of any "deconfliction" agreement—as arrangements for avoiding military incidents are called—reflects "hostile"

intentions and do not rule out U.S. attempts to create a provocative accident to trigger off a confrontation.

"This is a unique situation," said Jordan's former Chief of Staff Lt Gen. Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali. "Usually the United Nations acts as a barrier or observer. In this case there seems to be none."

He said Washington's rejection of the Iraqi offer was a "very ominous sign that the U.S. might use any undeliberate incident by the Iraqi forces (as a pretext to stage a) strike."

According to one Western military expert, developing a set-up to avoid accidental war usually takes time and needs a very sophisticated communication system between the two belligerent parties. He pointed out that during the cold war Washington and Moscow had a hot line and a complex code system to prevent accidents from engaging both sides in an unplanned confrontation. "But such a sophisticated system does not exist between Baghdad and Washington," he said, explaining that in such cases the success or failure of the parties concerned to avoid incidents depends on their ability to interpret information compiled by their surveillance system or whatever system of checking and double-checking they have developed.

The six-point Iraqi note, according to Iraqi and diplomatic sources in Baghdad, responded to a five-point American warning dated Aug. 15 which in effect nullified the 1987 agreement.

The aide-memoire, as the note is called in diplomatic jargon, amounted to an American warning that seaborne and airborne Iraqis should remain well clear of U.S. forces and against any Iraqi illumination of U.S. forces with the help of radar. The memo, according to the same sources, said that the U.S. will view such acts as "hostile intent and will result in immediate defensive reaction."

The Iraqi sources noted that the American memo did not refer to the 1987 agreement, which was signed three months after Iraqi warplanes hit by accident a U.S. vessel, Stark, during the Iraq-Iran war. From the Iraqi view, the deliberate American failure to mention the agreement was an implicit signal that the agreement no longer stands.

Although both sides refuse so far to disclose more details about the 1987 agreement it is believed to allow for consultations to avoid the repetition of the Stark accident and to prevent military incidents from dragging both sides into a war.

But while in 1987 both sides were not interested in a confrontation the situation has dramatically changed making the threat of war as a result of an accident more likely.

But times have changed and the Iraqi memo implied that moves that could be considered as hostile acts—in the absence of dialogue or a deconfliction agreement—are not confined to American military troops but to any of its allies, including Israel. For while the American memorandum specifies moves by American troops, the Iraqi note talks about acts by any side against Iraq.

During his visit to Baghdad former German Chancellor Willy Brandt warned repeatedly that war could be triggered off by an accident or even a misinterpretation of military moves by either side "regardless of the political calculations and decisions of the leaders."

Diplomats and observers in Baghdad wonder what would have been the Iraqi reaction if the French troop patrol which supposedly lost its way and crossed the Iraqi border two weeks ago was American and not French. In that case, Baghdad, which has made several overtures to try to neutralise the position of Paris towards war, chose to define the act as an accident and handed over the soldiers to the French embassy without delay.

"The Iraqi government would have been put in an awkward position if it were an American patrol," said an Arab diplomat. "For even if it was only an accident the tension, the American threats and war of words would have forced Baghdad to react differently."

The Aug. 21 Iraqi note indicates that the Iraqi government is prepared to deal with the U.S. in the same manner as illustrated in its Aug. 15 warning, but is seeking consultations to avoid military accidents. Diplomatic sources who read both notes said the Iraqis responded with the exact wording used in the American aide-memoire before suggesting a meeting.

From the view of the U.S. and its allies such consultations would breach the ban on dialogue with Baghdad until the latter pulled its troops out of Kuwait.

Thus, in the absence of dialogue and a deconfliction agreement, analysts warn, war might not need a political decision or U.S. congressional approval. One air or naval dash might prove more than enough to start a catastrophic war.

Paper Questions Iraqi Security After Withdrawal

JN2811110990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Nov 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Frenzied Competition Between Peace and War"]

[Text] A frenzied competition is taking place at these crucial moments making the Gulf crisis pendulate between political determination and military resolution. This is seen in the concerted efforts within the United Nations and the extensive buildup in the Arabian desert to confront Iraq.

While the Security Council is getting ready to convene the day after tomorrow, Thursday, at the request of the United States, which is pushing for a new resolution that will give Iraq a final warning to withdraw from Kuwait, the parallel political efforts taking place in the capitals of international decisionmaking suggest that the next few days will be crucial in determining the fate of the region. Issues will either be decided politically or they will be pushed toward the brink of war.

Whether the United States really intends to declare war on Iraq armed with an international resolution, or to practice blatant blackmail on it so that it relinquishes its rights, international interests require alertness to the dangers of this haggling due to the destructive effects it will have on the diplomatic efforts underway, and the attempts to divert these efforts and prevent them from taking their course toward realizing the required results.

Perhaps Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's talks in Moscow and afterwards the similar talks Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will hold [in Moscow] tomorrow provide a ray of hope that peace efforts have not reached a dead end, justifying a declaration of war. This is what gives impetus to the efforts to avert the region the certain catastrophe awaiting it as a result of military action.

Although we are not talking on behalf of Iraq from this podium, it is, nevertheless, well worth contemplating its objective demands which reject automatic submission to blatant threats and acceptance of immediate withdrawal from Kuwait within a defined time frame without guarantees for the future of both Iraq and Kuwait, which should be given by the Security Council.

Proceeding from this, we have the right to ask: What if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait? Who will guarantee that the U.S. troops will not occupy Kuwait and from there threaten al-Basrah and Baghdad?

Who will guarantee the security of Iraq and its withdrawing troops? Who will guarantee that the siege will be lifted off Iraq and that foreign troops will withdraw from the Arabian Peninsula after the justification for their presence there is eliminated? Who will guarantee that Iraq will not be hit despite its adherence to these impossible conditions?

Not responding to these legitimate questions, and therefore, not giving the necessary guarantees, forces Iraq to keep its troops in Kuwait. This is the situation the hawks of war are seeking in order to justify striking Iraq's power and destroying its military and economic pillars and keeping the region under the monopoly of the Zionist enemy, the first and final beneficiary of what is happening in the region.

These crucial moments should urge us to think logically before we reach the final crossroad, which will lead us either to a dignified peace providing the opportunity for a way out of the crisis with dignity, or to a destructive war in the whole region—and the world will definitely not be spared its consequences.

Now is the time for the hidden diplomatic efforts which can just about be discerned, before the callers for death and destruction triumph and achieve goals that go much beyond Kuwait, the core of the crisis.

Iraqi Pharmacists Appeal for Medicines, Milk

JN2811082990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 90 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by 'Awdah 'Awdah] [Text] Amman—The Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) has received a memorandum from the Iraqi Pharmacists Association which includes a call for contributions of medicines, especially those used for cardiac patients and those suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes.

The memo also urged the JPA to supply Iraq with badly needed children's milk through the voluntary and humanitarian organisations like the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies.

"The people of Iraq are being exposed to severe harm levelled against them by the United States which tries to exploit the international situation and to pursue its embargo against Iraq, depriving the Iraqi people of the essential food and medicine under the pretext of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions. This American practice violates all norms and international principles and human rights which American leaders continue to brag about," the memorandum said.

"We are appealing to you, in the name of mankind, to save our people from diseases and the danger of death which awaits many of them unless they receive medicine and basic food," said the memorandum.

The appeal coincided with a statement on Baghdad television by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn that many Iraqis had died because of lack of food and medicines.

The president's remarks to a group of relatives of foreign nationals held in Iraq was the strongest indication to date that U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq were taking their toll.

The U.S. plans to ask the U.N. Security Council Thursday to authorise the use of force to evict Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

$1.5 Billion Total Loans Set by End of 1990

JN2611124590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Planning Minister Dr. Khalid Amin 'Abdallah has affirmed that the total of the soft development and adjustment loans which Jordan will have obtained by the end of this year will total $1.5 billion. He indicated that this amount is reasonably adequate for supporting the Jordanian economy. He pointed out that the total of the loans Jordan obtained during the year 1989 amounted to $423 million.

In the television program "Economic Jordan" to be aired by Jordan Television tonight, Dr. 'Abdallah said that the efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and the Jordanian Government were instrumental in obtaining loans and aid that helped Jordan ensure continued economic growth, and shoulder the accumulating burdens because of the implementataion of the economic adjustment program, and the Gulf crisis.

The minister added that the loans which Jordan will obtain during the year 1991 will not be affected by what is going on right now. As for the loans which are provided by some Arab funds, they might be affected. He pointed out that the Planning Ministry has finalized a new plan for implementing the structural adjustment program, adding that the Council of Ministers will discuss this plan soon.

Finance Minister Reviews Anticipated Aid

JN2711094090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Minister of Finance Basel Jardanah said Monday participants in a conference held last week in Paris to discuss the problem of countries affected economically by the Gulf crisis showed understanding of Jordan's economic situation.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Jardaneh said potential donor countries were studying the prospect of assisting Jordan in line with their capabilities. Some countries did not say when and how much will be paid to the Kingdom, he said.

Jardanah said some countries expressed readiness to help Jordan. He noted that the German government had extended 180 million marks (about $120 million) and notes concerning the grant had been signed with the German government. "We hope that this sum of money can be drawn before the end of this year," he said.

Jardanah, who accompanied His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the conference which was called for by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said some countries had informed Jordan of their intentions to extend aid. "Some even have started negotiations with Jordan on grants," he said.

"Japan is currently holding negotiations with Jordan on extending a loan with easy terms worth $100 million and we hope that this amount of money can be drawn before the end of the month," the minister said.

Jordan will also sign agreements for $150 million in loans in the future, according to the minister.

France promised to give $20 million and there are commitments made by the Canadian and the Korean governments as well as other countries, he said.

The minister summarised the situation: There is an agreement under which terms Jordan will get $120 million grant and so far there are pledges of loans totalling $350 million.

The European Community (EC) has allocated $2,200 million for the countries most affected by the crisis, which are Jordan, Turkey and Egypt," he said. He added that one third of this amount will be paid from the EC budget while the other two thirds will be paid through bilateral negotiations between the EC member states on the one hand and the beneficiaries on the other.

He said the EC did not specify each country's contribution, "but we hope by the beginning of next year Jordan will be informed of this."

More on Aid Packages

JN2711094490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Dutch government understands the difficulties the Jordanian government is facing at the moment and the Netherlands has decided to give Jordan a grant of nearly JD [Jordanian dinars] 12 million to help it face the present difficulties, according to Dutch non-resident Ambassador to Jordan Gerben Meilhuizen.

The first part of the grant, almost half the sum, will be forthcoming before the end of 1990 while the other part will be available early next year said the ambassador at a meeting Monday with Minister of Planning Khalid Amin 'Abdallah.

The grant is part of a package grant promised through the European Community (EC) to countries worst bit by the Gulf crisis, including Jordan.

The minister explained to the ambassador the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan's economy and the difficult financial position Jordan was finding itself in at the moment. He also reviewed Dutch-Jordanian ties and cooperation in various fields, in the presence of a number of senior ministry officials.

The ambassador is resident in Damascus.

Agreement on Japanese Loan

On November 28, 1990, Tadayuki Nonoyma, ambassador of Japan, and Dr. Khalid Amin 'Abdallah, minister of planning, will exchange notes committing the government of Japan to extend to the government of Jordan a commodity loan of approximately JD 60 million. The loan is extended to support Jordan, which has sustained serious economic loss from the present situation in the Gulf region.

Terms for this loan are quite concessional, carrying the annual interest rate of 1.0 per cent, with the repayment period of 30 years including 10 years of grace period and the procurement condition of general untied.

The present commodity loan constitutes the first part of Japan's pledge of $250 million aid in soft loan to Jordan, which was made by Japanese Prime Minster Toshiki Kaifu during his visit to Jordan. Another $150 million loan, which is under negotiation, is expected in the near future.

Further on Lebanese Forces Withdrawal From Beirut

Fourth Phase Completed

NC2711184890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces completed withdrawing their forces from al-Ashrafiyah, al-Dawrah, and surrounding areas today, thus executing the third and fourth phases of their withdrawal.

The Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces Command Staff issued the following statement: The Lebanese Forces continued on Tuesday, 27 November 1990, withdrawing equipment and ammunition from the Beirut area. Approximately 390 tons of ammunition for various types of weapons were withdrawn in two stages, the first at around midday and involving 25 trucks carrying 125 tons, and the second at 1530 and involving 50 trucks transporting approximately 265 tons. The amount of ammunition and equipment so far removed from Beirut is 890 tons. Measures continue according to schedule.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon at 1715 GMT on 27 November reports: "AL-SUHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY cites a source whom it describes as well informed that tomorrow, Wednesday, afternoon has been set as zero hour to begin implementing the Greater Beirut plan. The source explained that the Lebanese Army's deployment in the specified area of Greater Beirut will take place in one stage following the completion of the withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces and the various militias and parties."]

Arms Reportedly Returned to City

NC2711185490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] The dimensions of the delaying tactics that the Lebanese Forces are adopting with regard to the withdrawal of their arms and personnel from Greater Beirut are becoming clear by the day. Security sources today told our radio that the weapons which are being taken out of al-Ashrafiyah amid great publicity are later returned by sea to al-Ashrafiyah and al-Karantina. Today a ship and three gunboats were sighted unloading weapons in Beirut harbor. The weapons are to be taken to al-Ashrafiyah and al-Karantina for storage in underground depots.

According to the same sources, personnel of the battalion commanded by Paul Faris are returning with Ja'ja's forces to transform the positions that were handed over to the Army into bunkers.

Forces Discuss Withdrawal

NC2811075890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Excerpt] A responsible Lebanese Forces source affirmed to the newspaper AL-DIYAR yesterday evening that, contrary to rumors, the Lebanese Forces are indeed expediting their efforts to complete the withdrawal from al-Ashrafiyah and the nearby areas. He said that the reasons for the delay are purely technical and have no political basis such as the formation of a new government or any other issue.

The source wondered why those who accuse the Lebanese Forces of slowing down the withdrawal say nothing about the other parties' forces that have not yet begun to withdraw from their positions, for example those forces deployed between Bikfayya and al-Muruj which is part of Greater Beirut. The source, however, denied that this is a reason for the delay in the withdrawal. He said that the Lebanese Forces will not link their complete withdrawal from Beirut to the withdrawal of the other parties' forces, and stressed that the Lebanese Forces will complete the withdrawal as quickly as possible. The source said that those who link the delay in the withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces and the issue of the new government are wrong, because the Greater Beirut plan and the Lebanese Forces withdrawal will be completed within the next two days, but the issue of a new government has not yet been discussed.

Lebanese Forces sources expressed the hope that as all phases of the withdrawal are completed, the Lebanese Forces will have taken over all their remaining centers in al-Matn, particularly the education institute in al-Dubayyah which the Army Command promised to hand over by the weekend. [passage omitted]

Phalangist Views Withdrawal

NC2811113990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Engineer Alfred Madi, member of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau, has announced that the Lebanese Forces will complete the withdrawal from their positions within Greater Beirut in a matter of days.

After meeting with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss today, he said that the discussion centered on the issue of Greater Beirut which has been finalized. He asserted that everything is going well and that the Greater Beirut plan is proceeding as scheduled. Regarding the reason for the delayed withdrawal, Eng. Madi mentioned an example, saying: When we asked the Army to vacate the educational institute and hand it over to us, we were told that the process would take six days. How can the Lebanese Forces be expected to evacuate a vast area containing massive weapons in a short period of time?

In another development today, Prime Minister al-Huss discussed current developments with the Iraqi charge d'affaires and Minister Edmond Rizq.

Al-Huss Discusses Delay in Greater Beirut Plan

NC2711180890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Commenting on the current delay in the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said: It is true that an unexpected

delay has occurred in the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan. This is because some quarters are taking their time in pulling out their weapons and gunmen, whichs is very regrettable. Delay is not in anybody's interest. We have stated previously, and we reiterate now, that the legitimate government gives time but does not forget. Someone might be able to delay the step, but no one will be able to stop the march.

More than this, we say that the people have waited for 15 years to arrive at this moment of peace. They are not prepared to accept any excuses or pretexts for any delay, and the public will not look favorably at any quarter responsible for this delay. If the procrastinators have their reasons for acting in this way, they must realize that they are putting an obstacle in the way of progress.

Al-Huss Examines Beirut Plan, Liberation of South

NC2811094790 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0830 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In an exclusive interview with Ihdin radio, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said that the Greater Beirut plan constitutes a major step toward the establishment of the state's authority over all of Lebanon. He indicated that the legitimate authority aspires to proceed to the south, where the liberation of the occupied territory is a major issue to which the legitiamte authority must devote its time and exert all its efforts. He added: When the southern territory is liberated, we will be able to say that we have restored all of Lebanon to the legitimacy's fold.

Prime Minister al-Huss indicated that the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan has taken longer than necessary because some unexpected delays have occurred in the withdrawals. He expressed hope that this plan will be achieved very soon. He said: We are not the only ones involved in the implementation of this plan.

Prime Minister Al-Huss added: We are now in the process of ushering in a new phase that requires the establishment of a new expanded government that will embrace all the influential forces in the country and embark on a new process of reconstruction and development. He indicated that the present government has carried out its required task and enabled the country to embark on the new phase.

Prime Minister al-Huss did not wish to discuss the question of whether he will head the new government.

Regarding the highways, Prime Minister al-Huss said: We must deal with this matter immediately after the Greater Beirut plan is implemented because it complements it. He hoped that the government will not face any difficulty or obstacles in the arrangements to open the Beirut-Tripoli coastal road.

Regarding the post-Greater Beirut priorities, Prime Minister al-Huss said: All subjects are vital but which one should take precedence is a matter that the Cabinet will discuss and decided on.

Army Reportedly Cooperates With Al-Matn Militias

NC2711190990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Excerpt] A state of insecurity continues to prevail in the two al-Matn regions. The measures taken by the legitimate authorities remain insufficient to provide security. Indeed, it has been reported recently that some Army personnel are participating in the bizarre actions of the various militias.

According to the latest report, gunmen kidnapped citizen Ramsis Jamil Makhkhul and took him to an unknown destination. Gunmen belonging to the Elie Hubayqah group opened fire on a patrol belonging to the Lebanese-Syrian Military Coordination Committee when it tried to take over the al-Shu'lah Phalangist Party branch office in 'Ayn al-Rummanah. A soldier was wounded in the attack.

A number of gunmen are threatening Christian citizens in al-Ruwaysat. The following gunmen have been identified: Husayn Nun, from the Army's commando forces; 'Atif al-Hilu and Tawfiq Birru, members of the military police; and Husayn Ja'far, Suhayl Hishmo, 'Isam Miftah, and Ziyad Miftah, formerly of the Army's intelligence branch. [passage omitted]

Israel Launches Raids After Clash With Troops

Mock Raids Over Sidon, Camps

NC2711202690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Sidon, the nearby camps, and the coastal areas shortly after 2030 today. Israeli gunboats were seen cruising off the Lebanese coast at 1900 this evening. The boats fired flares as they passed al-Sa'diyat.

These Israeli moves come after last night's clash between a fedayeen group belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and an Israeli patrol near Shab'a in the occupied zone. The clash left five Israeli troops dead, including a captain, and a sixth injured. Two fedayeen were martyred and a third was injured. The injured man and a companion succeeded in retreating to outside the occupied border zone. [passage omitted]

Casualties Reported

NC2711180390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided positions belonging to the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] this morning, killing five people and injuring seven others. The FRC announced that two of its members died and three others were wounded in the raid. The DFLP announced that three of its members were killed and two others were wounded.

A military source of the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] announced that the raid was targeted against one of rear positions of the NPO's Popular Liberation Army. REUTER cited security sources as saying that two NPO members were wounded in the raid.

Raid in South Lebanon Reported

JN2711211990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Zionist airborne-helicopter military forces last night launched a new aggression against the Rashayya area in southern Lebanon where violent fighting took place between the heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces and these Zionist forces. All kinds of weapons were used. Reports said that this aggression came after violent fighting between the heroes of the joint forces and the occupation forces near Shab'a in the occupied border strip. The Zionist enemy reinforced its forces with helicopter and Zionist Phantom bomber aircraft. Meanwhile, Zionist artillery shelled the Rashayya area. Reports added that five Zionist soldiers were killed in these clashes and eight heroes from the joint forces were martyred. The reports added that ambulances escorted by Zionist military vehicles rushed to the scene. The helicopters flew some of the dead and wounded to occupied Palestine.

Al-Huss Refutes Israeli Sabotage Allegations

NC2811111390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss in Beirut on 28 November—read by announcer]

[Text] An Israeli source has alleged that the Lebanese Government encourages acts of sabotage. The source was commenting on the clash with an Israeli force that took place on Lebanese territory the day before yesterday. This claim is utter impudence, and naturally is completely untrue. We deem it our duty to remind the world on this occasion that Israel is the one that practices systematic terrorism in its ugliest form. First of all, we recall that the operation to which the Israeli spokesman referred took place on Lebanese territory. What was the Israeli force doing on the territory of another state? Israel occupies Lebanese territory; it challenges the UN and international laws and norms by refusing to implement both UN Security Council Resolution 425 that was issued in 1978—that is 12 years ago—and the call on Israel to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Lebanon.

Israel practices the ugliest form of harassment, persecution, and aggression against the Lebanese citizens who reside in the territory that is under the yoke of its occupation. If this is not terrorism, what is it? Furthermore, Israel and its agent forces almost daily commit acts of aggression against all of Lebanon, causing casualties among the peaceful citizens and inflicting immeasurable destruction to property and livelihood. Very brazenly, Israel labels its criminal acts as retaliatory or preemptive. If this is not terrorism, what is it?

Israel is the foremost terrorist state in the world. Once the world realizes this fact then it will be possible to seriously talk about finding a just solution to this issue, which is basically the issue of the right of the Arab to his land.

If the objective of the Israeli spokesman's statement is to fabricate an excuse for committing fresh acts of aggression against the Lebanese territory and people, then this is an obvious attempt and will not deceive anybody. In any case, nothing can prevent Lebanon from continuing to demand its right to its territory through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Army Commander Visits Damascus To Free Officers

NC2811114490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] As a result of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud's visit to Damascus yesterday, Brigadiers General Shamil Muzaya, Makhkhul Hakmah, and Lewis Khuri as well as Major Marun Abu-Diwan, who were detained during the 13 October operation [in which General 'Awn was ousted], have been released.

A number of other officers will be released at a later date.

Al-Hirawi Sees Country 'Halfway to Peace'

PM2711162790 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 18 Nov 90 p 12

[Interview with President Al-Hirawi by Tomas Alcoverro in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Alcoverro] Your government is striving to persuade the various militias to withdraw from Beirut, but they will still retain their positions outside the capital. So how can a desperate and skeptical population be guaranteed security?

[Al-Hirawi] The al-Ta'if accord, drafted by the Lebanese deputies last year, sets a six-month period for disbanding all the militias. It is the first time in 15 years that the Lebanese people have agreed to leave responsibility for their security to the state, instead of turning for it to the militia organizations which have fought each other fiercely and failed in their aim of protecting the areas in which they were established. We are now halfway to peace. It is a lengthy and difficult task, but we will accomplish it thanks to the conviction of our faith in the fatherland.

[Alcoverro] Future relations between the Lebanese state and the Palestinian armed resistance organizations were not included in the al-Ta'if accord. Do you believe that the Lebanese conflict remains linked to the Palestinian problem?

[Al-Hirawi] Your question requires very clear answers. I will begin by saying that the al-Ta'if accord dissociated

the resolution of the Lebanese crisis from the regional conflict in the Middle East. We need a peace dynamic which will rapidly restore normal life to Lebanon in all respects. As regards the principles governing our relations with the Palestinians, I would like to point out that Lebanon has received them and continues to receive them with open arms, but we alone will be responsible for security on national territory and we will be the only people responsible for the security of all those living on our soil. It is now time for the Army to undertake its role—its true role—of defending the country's independence and integrity. In addition, before beginning a dialogue with the PLO, we demand of that organization recognition of the clauses in the al-Ta'if accord stipulating the disbandment of the militias and the deployment of the Army to replace the foreign armed forces. So we rule out the PLO's again having a military role in Lebanon.... Then we will decide on our future relations through dialogue with the PLO.

[Alcoverro] You recently stated that you would send your troops to the south where the Israelis still occupy the so-called "security zone." Do you believe that the national resistance organizations and the Palestinian groups will agree to surrender their weapons, or is an attempt being made to achieve coordination between the regular troops and these forces?

[Al-Hirawi] The national reconciliation agreement envisages the deployment of the Lebanese Army alongside the troops of the UN contingent (UN Interim Forces in Lebanon) throughout the southern region which will no longer be, as now, a buffer zone on Israel's border.... The Palestinian organizations and others will not be allowed to use Lebanese soil as a base for hostile actions against Israel.

[Alcoverro] To what extent does this stage in the Lebanese crisis stem from the situation created in the Persian Gulf region since last August?

[Al-Hirawi] This process stems solely from our decision to emerge from a state of war in order to move toward a state of peace. The Persian Gulf crisis has had only adverse repercussions on Lebanon, especially in the economic field, since 200,000 Lebanese have been left unemployed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. To say that General 'Awn's elimination was possible thanks to regional developments is incorrect since the decision to end his rebellion was taken after long months of negotiations to persuade him to accept the political solution approved in al-Ta'if.... Our situation stems solely from our desire to close the chapter of war and to move toward peace.

Ja'ja' Blamed for 'Liquidation' of Iranians

NC2411111190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The Promise Party has denied claims by Samir Ja'ja', commander of the so-called Lebanese Forces, that its leader [former Lebanese Forces Commander] Elie Hubayqah was responsible for the liquidation of the four kidnapped Iranians. The party issued a statement which said:

To set the record straight and refute all allegations, we would like to clarify that the four Iranians were detained at the al-Barbarah roadblock. That roadblock was manned by the forces of Ja'ja', who was at the time rebelling against the [Lebanese Forces] command and was based in the mountain areas. Following the Iranians' detention, Ja'ja' ordered his forces to take them to the Rasha barracks in the hills of al-Batrun district. Ja'ja' then ordered a certain George Khuri, also known as Franco, to liquidate them.

Arrival of New U.S. Ambassador to Beirut Reported

NC2811122590 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Reuter has reported that Ryan Crocker, the new U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, arrived at the U.S. Embassy compound in 'Awkar this afternoon aboard a U.S. military helicopter.

Al-Asad Receives British Parliamentary Delegation

JN2711142890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1045 today a British parliamentary delegation headed by Conservative MP [member of Parliament] Robert Adley and including David Steel of the Liberal Democratic Party and Tim Rathbone of the Conservative Party. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The talks dealt with the situation in the region.

Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs Visits Damascus

Meets With Khaddam

JN2311125890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 21 Nov (SANA)—At 1730 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Swiss State Secretary Klaus Jacobi. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Swiss ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The meeting centered on the latest developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in Lebanon and the Gulf.

Confers With Qaddur

JN2311130190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1842 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 21 Nov (SANA)—Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, received this evening Swiss State Secretary Klaus Jacobi. Present at the meeting were the heads of the Foreign Ministry West European and Economic Desks and the Swiss ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed the current situation in the region, and bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

Holds Meeting With Al-Shar'

JN2311181690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Swiss State Secretary Klaus Jacobi. Muhammad Khadr, director of the West Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Swiss ambassador in Damascus attended.

Talks dealt with bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the region's conditions. Talks also dealt with the current options for a solution to the Gulf crisis within the Security Council's framework, and touched on the Paris summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Explains Objective; Departs

JN2511103290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Swiss State Secretary Klaus Jacobi, Swiss minister of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Swiss ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA [SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY] correspondent, Jacobi expressed his pleasure in visiting Syria. He said: The aim of my tour of a number of the region's states was to become closely acquainted with the situation in the region through direct meetings and talks with these states' leaders. He added: The age in which we live necessitates meetings and contacts. This has helped me form an opinion about the situation in this part of the world, which is important not only for Europe, but for the whole world.

Iraqi Invasion 'Free Service' to Israel

JN2511102290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement, and as part of our Armed Forces' celebration of this blessed anniversary, the air, technical, and navigational institutes of the Air College celebrated the graduation of a new group of students.

General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, deputized for President al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Amid shouts of support for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its Secretary General comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi made a speech. [passage omitted]

Gen. al-Shihabi reviewed the events in the Arab arena. He asserted that these events are progressing rapidly and becoming more dangerous as a result of the collusion of imperialism and Zionism and their full-blown efforts to realize their aims and interests in the region. The al-Asad's Syria's steadfastness and opposition to these conspiracies is based on the constant bases of struggle and its unswerving pan-Arab stands and not hesitating to make any decision in the interest of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Gen. al-Shihabi talked about the situation in the Gulf. He said that it is regrettable that some of those who claim to uphold Arabism are distracting attention from the major goal of the Arab nation, claiming that they are serving the pan-Arab cause. He added that what the Iraqi regime created by its invasion of Kuwait is tantamount to a blow to Arab unity and solidarity and a free service to Israel and imperialism, through inviting foreign forces

into the Gulf region and expediting the dispatch of weapons and funds to Israel so as to make it expand its aggression on the Arab nation and devote its efforts solely to dealing with the men of the heroic intifadah.

Commenting on Syria's role, he said that since the eruption of the crisis, Syria has sought to defuse it and confine the dispute within an Arab framework fearing it might be internationalized. Syria hastened also to send military forces to Saudi Arabia and the Emirates to prevent the expansion of the problem and limit its area. Syria is also ready to defend any Arab country which is subject to the danger of invasion, he added.

Gen. al-Shihabi also asserted that the rejection by the head of the Iraqi regime of Arab and international resolutions calling for the withdrawal of his forces from Kuwait has contributed to galvanizing world public opinion against Iraq and the Arabs in general, and distracted world attention from the Palestine question, which is the pivot of our existence and conflict with the Zionist enemy. [passage omitted]

State 'in Harmony' With Principles, Stance

JN2411155490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1242 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Based on the principles that underpin Syria's position at all times and on the pan-Arab interests of the entire nation, the Syrian-U.S. summit was held in Geneva yesterday between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President George Bush amid unprecedented regional and international interest. On the basis of the search for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East to thus save the region and the world from a possible catastrophe, the chances for which are on the rise following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Syria expressed its position, which has never been subject to compromise or change, with its usual clarity and through its leader, al-Asad. Syria, and everyone knows this, finds nothing on its agenda of interests that has higher priority than its fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy, nor anything on the road of its struggle more deserving of efforts and all that is dear than the liberation of the land and the restoral of its rights and those of the Palestinian people and the entire nation.

Syria comes closer to others when others come closer to understanding its position and supporting its efforts on the road to its just and legitimate struggle. It also dissociates from them when they dissociate themselves from its position, when they oppose and place obstacles and difficulties on its way.

Syria, and everyone knows this, finds nothing justified in Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, nothing sound about it nor of service to pan-Arab interests or to either Iraq and Kuwait. In fact, since the first day of the occupation, Syria has viewed it as a grave mistake wasteful of the resources of the nation and of Iraq, day in and day out. It sees it as distracting Iraq and the nation from the central cause, on which the Arabs agreed scores of years ago and to which they have devoted their resources and blood. Moreover, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is a violation of international law and the UN Charter, and an action that is unprecedented in international relations. For this reason, while trying all avenues to redirect the Arab course toward the real challenge on the real front in a confrontation with Israel, Syria finds itself very much in harmony when it voiced its position in Geneva yesterday, as it will anywhere else that it believes it useful to point out and to stress the need to reach a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and try to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. As part of the discussion of the Gulf crisis, Syria also raises its voice to point out and to stress the importance of implementing the resolution of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo and the UN resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and for restoring the pre-invasion status. This is because Iraq's response to these resolutions will save the region, particularly the Arab people in Iraq, further suffering and tragedy.

Because Syria is in harmony with itself, and with its principles and stands, it knows full well that it represents the Arabs' will and aspirations for liberation and progress. Based on this, it shoulders the burdens of the responsibility toward the masses under difficult circumstances, which have never been, as they are now, in more need of Syria's wisdom and courage and of leader al-Asad's determination.

Al-Asad, Delegation Return After Geneva Talks

JN2411170990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon after meeting with U.S. President George Bush in Geneva.

The members of the Syrian Arab delegation who accompanied the president also returned with him; they are, Dr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, head of the National Security Office; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; and Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister.

Afghanistan

News Conference Discusses Security Operations

LD2211183190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] To explain the hostile plans against Kabul that have been organized by the extremist group of Gulbuddin, a news conference was held this afternoon at Storay Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY Military Section this news conference was attended by General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, first deputy defense minister and general commander of the Kabul garrison; Major General Yar Muhammad, first deputy state security minister; and Muhammad Kazim, deputy interior minister, who replied to questions raised by foreign and domestic journalists.

At the beginning of the news conference the deputy defense and interior ministers spoke with regard to the peaceful measures by the Republic of Afghanistan for a political solution for Afghanistan by means of talks and dialogue and added: The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan has discussed with various levels of the society all the issues regarding the establishment of nationwide peace and security in the country and has carried out a series of meetings. The extremist groups, especially the extremists group of Gulbuddin, however, have stressed that the Afghan problem can only be solved by military means. Such a method is not aproved by the opposition groups and people, and Gulbuddin has became more isolated and faces considerable defeats.

Regarding the gains of the Armed Forces, the officials added that during the period 11-21 November the units of the Armed Forces have had a series of gains in a number of the country's provinces during which the security forces seized 37 light weapons, seven mortars, six rocket launchers, 412 artillery shells, 1,200 mortar rounds, 320 Sakr-type missiles, 145 cases of small arms ammunition and 190 cases of machinegun ammunition.

During the same period, combat operations resulted in the deaths of 252 extremists, 191 wounded, and 27 enemy, including two Saudi Arabian Wahhabis, captured. In addition, eight rocket projectiles, 13 machine guns, 66 vehicles, 12 mortars, and 41 DShK's were destroyed.

At the end of the meeting, domestic and foreign journalists asked questions to which the deputies of the Armed Forces ministries replied.

Three Killed in Missile Attack on Kabul 23 Nov

LD2311163190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Warmonger extremists today killed three of our compatriots and injured another by firing three surface-to-surface missiles into the residential areas of the city of Kabul. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that the rockets were fired into the residential areas of wards six and seven of Kabul city from the direction of the west of Kabol Province. They also inflicted material losses on our compatriots.

Mujahidin Troops Close Kabul-Herat Highway

BK2311103790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 90 p 7

[Text] Samangan, Nov. 22—Linked with the first phase of the joint military operation Mujahidin under Gen Commander 'Abdallah closed the Kabul-Herat highway for all sorts of traffic.

Mujahidin sources from Samangan inside Afghanistan said that all the main highways leading to Kabul were being closed by the Mujahidin to strangulate the puppet regime.

In Parvan, Mujahidin attacked the military units of the regime near the teachers training centre yesterday destroying one tank and inflicting severe military losses on the regime.

A report said 16 troopers had forced to surrender to Mujahidin in Jaldak area, (Kalat District) in Zabol Province on Nov. 19. Two rocket launchers and a number of assorted weapons were also captured by the Mujahidin.

Mujahidin also inflicted severe losses on the regime forces when led by Commander Muhammad Hakim. They destroyed a number of units of 52nd Brigade.

Mujahidin Capture Six Army Posts Near Kabul

BK2411115290 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Nov 90 p 10

[Text] Kabul, Nov 23—Six military posts of very strategic importance were captured by Afghan Mujahidin at the Panama hill, 25 kilometers south-west of Kabul city, last night after four days-continuous fighting with the regime forces, reports AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY.

The reports of Mujahidin from Kabul disclosed that four security posts fell to Mujahidin last night while the remaining two posts were captured early this morning. Mujahidin also seized a considerable quantity of heavy weapons and inflicted severe human and material losses to the regime forces, details of which were not immediately available.

With the capturing of these posts the defence ministry and the Rishkhor division of Kabul army is exposed to the Mujahidin's direct attacks. Mujahidin of Khyber Front are engaged in knocking down the regime security positions at this front.

Kabul Garrison Statement on Gulbuddin Attacks

LD2711211190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Announcement by the General Command of Kabul Garrison; date not specified]

[Text] Our dear patriots are aware that Gulbuddin, supported by Pakistani militarists, made an attempt to launch new attacks on Kabul city and some adjacent provinces on 19 November. In the course of these attacks, heavy losses were inflicted on the warmongering forces, and as a result of retaliatory strikes by the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, a total of 165 individuals in Kabol Province, and in Parvan, Kapisa, Konduz, Lowgar, Vardak, Zabol and Nangarhar provinces; Islamic Party commanders, namely Matin, Rahmoddin, Muhammad Akram, Sur Gul, and commanders of Chak-e Vardag, Abdol Bari, Feda'i, Mahmudi, Sohayl, and Haji Naqibullah, including six Wahabis—were killed, as were Patang commander Sardar Muhammad, and Muhammad Sayed, Gul Muhammad, Habiborrahman, Shafaqiar and Muhammad Gul. Five caches of weapons and ammunition, and 16 transport vehicles along with 18 strongholds and 50 rocket missile units, were destroyed. Also, a large amount of heavy and light weapons together with a large quantity of ammunition have been seized by the country's armed forces.

The attacks by Gulbuddin were viewed with deep hatred and indignation by the people, who, while not desiring to leave their localities, ask the local leaders linked to Gulbuddin not to cause further suffering for the people and cease bloodshed and fratricide. As a result of public opinion, a large number of armed commanders in Parvan and Kapisa provinces have rejected such attacks on villages, populated localities and other state centers, and have demanded the cessation of war and bloodshed.

Documents at hand are witness to the fact that Pakistani military espionage and its close collaborator, Gulbuddin, failed to obtain the cooperation of other organizations to attack Kabul. This, and the reaction of commanders to the existing situation and new attacks, caused apprehension in Gulbuddin's camp. Therefore, Gulbuddin resorted to new tactics and sent instructions to his forces as if they had achieved great successes as a result of overall attacks. By exploiting the awareness of the leaders of his groups of the situation of each other, he encourages them to continue the war.

While appreciating the peace-seeking spirit of our noble and patriotic people, we ask them, in line with their consistent cooperation, to help the country's armed forces to discover and foil the extremists' conspiracies. The General Command of Kabul Garrison assures our people that the armed forces of the country, with high morals, have foiled all enemy conspiracies and attacks, and, by giving a shattering blow to Gulbuddin and his Pakistani military instigators, and once again proved that the armed forces of Afghanistan are capable of resolutely defending the territorial integrity and national independence of their beloved homeland, the Republic of Afghanistan, and of maintaining reliable security for Kabul citizens and the country's provinces.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Declares State of Emergency

BK2711171890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] A state of emergency has been declared throughout Bangladesh. It comes into force with immediate effect. Addressing the nation over radio and television tonight, President Ershad said he has taken the decision to impose emergency under Clause 1 Article 141-A of the Constitution because the country's internal security and economy are threatened by destructive politics of opposition parties and alliances.

Explaining the situation that led to the imposition of emergency, the president said for the last one and half months, there have been a series of destructive activities, including bombings, use and open display of arms, acts of arson, siege, and [word indistinct] hartals [general strike]. These activities, he said, have brought untold sufferings to the poor, including rickshaw pullers, push cart drivers, hotels, shopkeepers, and other workers. Railway tracks have been uprooted and radio centers and railway stations have been set on fire. Students have also become victims and their academic life is at stake. All these activities, the president said, are part of a conspiracy to stifle the national economy and communication network. The president also spoke of what has been happening in Dhaka University campus for the last few days. Two persons, including a doctor, have lost their lives, while many others have been injured. Two rival groups of students have been [words indistinct] and their activities have marred the academic atmosphere at the university campus. Despite all these, he said, the government has tackled the situation with great patience. It was the government's hope that the people's sufferings and the government's leniency would have a (?moderating) influence on the opposition movement.

The president declared that the national economy, the educational system, and the political structure are all being stifled to create terrorism and anarchy. President Ershad said the nation, which has made supreme sacrifices for independence and democracy, cannot remain a silent spectator to economic disaster and continued violence. He said his government wants to make politics neat and free from (?hatred). If the present politics of terrorism is allowed to continue, he said, the dream of economic emancipation of the 11 crore people of Bangladesh will remain unfulfilled.

President Ershad called upon the people to extend their fullest cooperation and support to the government in its efforts to protect the national security and economy from destructive politics.

Press Note on Demonstrations

BK2711160090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] A press note issued in Dhaka says opposition political parties and alliances brought out processions in different parts of the capital, Dhaka, today, although they had no previous program. An unruly mob, taking part in a procession, set fire to a jeep at about 0900 in the morning. A police constable was injured seriously when the processionists threw stones. He has been admitted to police hospital. Similarly, an unruly mob set fire to a microbus near Golakshah Mazar and a private car near the stadium. Another jeep, a private car, and a tempo [a three-wheeled vehicle] were set on fire in other areas of the city. The police personnel were fired on from inside City College and there was an exchange of fire between police and unruly mob near the railway crossing.

According to the press note, the joint secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association, Shamsul Alam Milan, was shot at during an exchange of fire between two groups of students near [words indistinct] in the university area. He later died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The government hopes all sections of people will show patience and cooperate with the government in maintaining law and order.

Opposition Leaders' Homes Blockaded

BK2711122890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 27 (AFP)—Police have surrounded and sealed off the homes of Bangladesh's two main opposition leaders amid an increasingly violent campaign to oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, opposition members said Tuesday.

People were prevented from entering or leaving the homes of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia, Amir Hossain Amu of the opposition Awami League said at a press conference.

Sheikh Hasina heads an eight-party alliance dominated by the Awami League, while Begum Zia heads a seven-party alliance led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

One opposition source said Begum Zia might have evaded arrest by leaving her home minutes before police arrived.

Political Curbs, Schools Closed

BK2811023690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] The president has promulgated an order suspending rights for filing cases in courts for enforcing fundamental rights and all proceedings pending in any court for enforcing the rights mentioned in Articles 27, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42 and 43 of the Constitution for the period during which the emergency proclaimed under Clause 1 of Article 141-A of the Constitution remains in force. The president proclaimed the order under powers conferred on him under Clause 1 of Article 141-C of the Constitution. The president also proclaimed an emergency ordinance under the title Emergency Power Ordinance 1990. Under this ordinance all sorts of processions, meetings, rallies, demonstrations, hartals [general strikes], strikes, and lockouts have been banned. Under this ordinance the government will publish rules with powers to control receiving and sending of news through post, radio, telegram, telex, fax or telephone. The rules will be effective with immediate effect.

Under the Emergency Power Ordinance 1990, some amendments have been brought in the Special Powers Act of 1974. Under Clause 18-1 of the revised Special Powers Act, the government has ordered that all printers, publishers and editors of all dailies, biweeklies, weeklies and periodicals will have to take prior permission from the joint secretary, political, of the Ministry of Home Affairs before publishing any news, or article (?on the following topics). The ordinance says without a written approval of the above-mentioned official, news or articles on violence, arson, destruction, processions, meetings and rallies, demonstrations, antigovernment activities, and the activities which will jeopardize law and order should not be published. Publishing of provocative news or articles has also been prohibited. No printing press will be allowed to be used for printing or publishing such news or articles.

The government has ordered the closure of Dhaka University and its halls, hostels and residential halls for a month under powers conferred on it under Clause 2-1 of the Educational Institutions Law and Order Ordinance 1990. The order was proclaimed since it appeared to the government for the last few days that violence took place in Dhaka University and its adjoining areas. An extremely tense situation was prevailing in these areas for a number of days and chaos and shooting incidents were rampant [words indistinct] indiscipline and the situation not conducive to law and order [words indistinct].

The government has announced the closure of all educational institutions in the capital, Dhaka, including Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Agriculture University and their hostels and residential halls for a month. The government proclaimed the order under powers conferred on it under Clause 2-1 of the Educational Institutions Law and Order Ordinance 1990.

A curfew is in force in Dhaka metropolitan areas from 2100 last night and it will remain in force until further order. Curfew is also in force from midnight last night in Chittagong and Khulna metropolitan areas and it will remain in force until further order. Stern action will be taken against anybody found violating the curfew order. The curfew order will not, however, apply to those who are engaged in emergency services like radio and television, newspapers, electricity, water, gas and fire brigade. They are, however, requested to collect curfew pass as

soon as there is relaxation of curfew. At present, their identity cards issued by their respective organizations will be treated as curfew pass.

Unrest Follows Declaration

BK2811075890 Hong Kong AFP in English
0745 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 28 (AFP)—Troops opened fire to quell rioting here Wednesday as protestors, angry at the arrest of leading opposition figures, defied a state of emergency imposed by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Crowds blocked roads, stoned police, and erected barricades against troops who opened fire in two areas of the capital, injuring at least three people, witnesses said.

Protestors broke curfew restrictions to stage protest marches across the capital as police and paramilitary troops, backed by army units, were called out in force to restore order.

Mr. Ershad, 61, who took power in a bloodless coup in 1982, imposed the state of emergency late Tuesday, outlawing a general strike called by the opposition for Wednesday to protest violence which had raged for several days at Dhaka University.

Police and paramilitary troops swooped on the university, where a doctor was shot dead Tuesday, in a predawn raid Wednesday, according to witnesses as security forces tightened their grip on other parts of the capital.

Bangladesh's top opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, were put under house arrest late Tuesday in a police swoop only hours before the state of emergency was declared.

Police also arrested BNP senior leader Mir Shaukat Ali, a retired lieutenant general and former ambassador under the Ershad government, party sources said Wednesday.

The homes of other opposition leaders were also raided overnight but no further details were available.

The proclamation came at the height of the opposition campaign to oust Mr. Ershad and stage fresh elections under a neutral, caretaker government.

Newspapers failed to appear and the national news agency BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA (BSS) closed down after journalists and print workers walked out in protest after the emergency decree—the second in the three years—was announced.

The campaign which began October 10 has left more than 20 people dead and hundreds injured.

Proclaiming the state of emergency, Mr. Ershad, said the measures were to "preserve national security and save the national economy from clutches of violence and destructive politics" of the opposition.

He said said "internal security and economic life are endangered in the face of the current political trend of burning and arson."

Under emergency regulations, processions, meetings, rallies, demonstrations, strikes and lock-outs are banned.

Troops moved out of the Dhaka Garrison shortly after the proclamation to join police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in enforcing the emergency measures.

Several shots were fired at demonstrators who were tearing up lumps of concrete from the roads in Moghbazar and Malighbagh to throw at police, witnesses said. At least three people were injured.

Police wielding batons cleared anti-government protestors who had blocked roads and lit bonfires of tires at the central railway terminal, residents said.

Under the emergency powers ordinance 1990, the government said it would "control the receiving and sending of news through post, radio, telegram, telex, fax or telephone." Journalists were to submit their reports to the Home Ministry for clearance.

BSS resumed its service later Wednesday, carrying mostly foreign items.

All schools, colleges in the capital and universities nationwide were closed under the emergency regulations for a month and resident students had been asked to vacate their dormitories, state radio said Wednesday.

Outside Contact Apparently Cut

BK2811121890 Hong Kong AFP in English
1159 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Nov 28 (AFP)—Bangladesh appeared cut off from the outside world Wednesday after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad imposed a state of emergency and troops moved into the streets to quell rioting.

News agencies here reported they had lost contact with Dhaka where earlier reports said troops had opened fire to out down riots by protestors angry at the arrest of leading opposition figures.

(International telephone lines to the Bangladesh capital were "out of order" according to telephone operators in Hong Kong and Islamabad who could not say precisely when they had gone down.) [passage omitted]

Under the Emergency Powers Ordinance 1990, the government said it would "control the receiving and sending of news through post, radio, telegram, telex, fax or telephone." Journalists were to submit their reports to the Home Ministry for clearance.

India

Pakistan Asked To Work at Improving Relations

BK2811101490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] India has firmly asked Pakistan to stop sabotaging New Delhi's attempts at improving relations between the two countries and desist from interfering in her internal affairs. Speaking at the UN committee, the Indian representative, Mr. Prabhakar Menon, said Pakistan's interference in Jammu and Kashmir can be self-defeating. Rejecting unwarranted and baseless allegations by the Pakistani delegate, Mr. Menon said Islamabad's aid and abetments to terrorism, secessionism, and fanaticism violate UN rights.

Military Strength Compared With Pakistan

BK2711145790 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Nov 90 p 11

[By Lieutenant General A.M. Vohra]

[Text] What has primarily influenced the size and structure of India's armed forces over the last four decades and has kept up a competitive arms build up on the sub-continent is its perception of a regional threat. In this context the point made in some recent statements that India's military strength used to be 4:1 in relation to Pakistan and that this has diminished subsequently is not borne by an analysis of the published figures.

When talking of relative strength, one must first evolve a correct basis for such a comparison. Rather than manpower, the number of basic field formations of the Army and its major weapon systems, the number of squadrons and combat aircraft in the case of the Air Force and the number of principal surface combatants as well as submarines, in the case of the Navy, constitute a fair basis.

In the case of the Army, the number of armoured, mechanised and infantry divisions is relevant rather than the number of corps as the composition of a corps is flexible, it may be composed of two to four divisions.

In regard to weapon systems, including combat aircraft, it is pertinent to mention that the armed forces are perpetually in a stage of transition and have a mix of systems that are becoming out of date and later versions being inducted. To take the case of tanks, for instance, as per The Military Balance 1989, India holds 3,150 tanks of which 800 are T55 which were first produced in the 1950s, 1,700 Vijayantas, first produced in the mid 1960s, and 650 T72 which are to replace the first two, over 20 years old (albeit refurbished and, in case of T55s, upgunned) tanks.

Similarly, Pakistan's 1,750 tanks are made up of 500 M-47/48 first produced in the late 1940s and early 1950s respectively, 50 T54, also first produced in the late 1940s and 1,200 Chinese Type 59 based on Soviet T54; early models of which were produced in 1957-60 but large-scale production took place between 1979 and 1983.

With this background, let us look at the relative strengths over the years as published in "The Military Balance". To take the Army first, after the NEFA [North-East Frontier Agency] debacle of 1962, India decided to raise ten mountain divisions for its northern border. The Military Balance shows three under raising in 1963 and has given a figure of 10 or 11 from the 1970s onwards. These formations are specially tailored for the northern mountainous region and are not really suitable for operations in the plains. They do not, for instance, have any tanks or anti-tank weapons. Their artillery is of shorter range and high trajectory as it includes elements that can be carried by animal transport (mules).

The paucity of roads and the requirement of cross-country mobility necessitates provision of sizable animal transport and only a little mechanical transport (motor vehicles) is allotted. In view of this it has so far been relevant, to study the relative strength, excluding India's mountain divisions. This was so because apart from the shortcomings of mountain divisions for operations in the plains already pointed out and the necessity not to leave the northern border unguarded, the switching of forces across the sub-continent is time-consuming.

However, with the improvement of relations with China, it has been reported that, in the current hotting up of the situation with Pakistan, India has moved four divisions to the western front; 8, 20 and 57 with HQ III Corps to J&K [Jammu and Kashmir] and 20 to Punjab.

For the purposes of comparison of relative strengths, the overall position is that in 1963 India had 13 divisions (1 armoured, 9 infantry and 3 mountain), in 1971-72 the number was 24 (1, 13, and 10), in 1981-82 it was 30 (2, 18 and 10) and in 1988-89 the number rose to 34 (2 armoured, 1 mechanised, 20 infantry and 11 mountain). Against this, Pakistan Army's strength in the years mentioned above has been 8, 14, 18 and 19 (2 armoured and 17 infantry). It will be seen that the ratio all along has been around 1.6 or 1.7 is to 1. At no period has it been 4:1, nor has there been any major deviation in the ratio: the number of formations have increased considerably on both sides over the years.

The figures in respect of tanks held by the two armies are available fom 1971-72 onwards and the ratio all along has been about the same. India's number was 1,200 in 1971-72, went up to 2,120 in 1981-82 and to 3,150 in 1989-90. Pakistan's tank strength in these years has been 575, 1285 and 1750.

Comparing the number of combat aircraft of the two air forces during years 1963-64, 1971-72 and 1981-82 and 1989-90, the figures are India 450, 625, 614 and 836 and Pakistan 250, 285, 220 and 451. The ratio was 1.8:1, went up to over 2:1 and has now come back to 1.8:1.

The position regarding the Navy is that the strength of both the navies has more or less doubled over the years;

India's from 14 (1 carrier, 2 cruisers, 3 destroyers and 8 frigates) in 1964-65 to 28 in 1989-90 (2 carriers, 5 destroyers and 21 frigates) and Pakistan's from 8 (1 cruiser, 5 destroyers and 2 frigates) to 17 (7 destroyers and 10 frigates). Both the navies had 4 submarines each in 1971-72. India now has 17 and Pakistan has 6.

The relative strength ratio of the armed forces of India and Pakistan has thus been more or less constant over the years or, at least, there has been no major deviation in this ratio even though the level of forces has nearly doubled in the case of the air forces, doubled in the case of the navies and more than doubled in the case of the armies.

While considering comparative capabilities, a few general points need to be made. The first is the downgradation of the military option and the consequent influence of this fact on war aims and objectives of nations. The occupation of territory is no longer feasible and unconditional surrender is not a practical war aim. Secondly, if negotiations fail, the preferred course is low key, low cost hostility such as instigating and supporting secessionist militancy to weaken the adversary in the hope of achieving one's goal. Thirdly, if open hostilities have to be resorted to, these are likely to be shrot-lived because of external pressures.

The objectives are therefore likely to be peripheral rather than deep. For India, limited objectives (in spite of some statements to the contrary rashly made recently) are also in keeping with its belief in and support of the existing state system in South Asia. This is so because India's support for a stable Pakistan, for instance, is in its own interest.

Pakistan-Trained Militants Arrested in Kashmir

BK2711162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 10 subversives, including five Pakistan-trained militants, were apprehended during the last 24 hours. Some quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Girish Chander Saxena, has said that militant activities in the valley have been contained to a very large extent. He was addressing a meeting of senior civil and police officers in Jammu today.

President's Rule Proclaimed in Assam 27 Nov

BK2811035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] President's rule has been imposed in Assam. The state assembly has been kept under suspended animation. The president, Mr. Venkataraman, isssued a proclamation late last night under Article 356 of the Constitution. The decision to impose president's rule in the state was taken after considering a detailed report from the governor, Mr. D.D. Thakur, about the deteriorating law and order situation, particularly the activities of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam]. The government has also issued a notification under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act declaring the whole of Assam State as a disturbed area. It has also declared ULFA and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, which have developed operational relations with each other, as unlawful associations.

The official spokesman told the correspondent in New Delhi this morning that the governor's report was received on Monday and was considered by the union government yesterday. It has been stated that ULFA has been indulging in secessionist activities and crimes like murders, kidnappings, and extortion of huge sums of money. ULFA has also been running training camps and receiving arms from abroad. These training camps have been run by them in collaboration with the Burmese rebels and Naga hostiles. It has also been stated that all suggestions from the center to the state government to control their activities and improve the situation were not acted upon, giving rise to a general feeling that the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad—Assam People's Council] government was not willing to take effective action against these cadres. Many political parties and prominent leaders have represented that in the present atmosphere election to the state assembly would be a farcical exercise.

The spokesman said declaration of the whole of Assam as a disturbed area would enable the army forces to exercise special powers in the state.

Our correspondent adds [that] the Assam chief minister, Mr. P.K. Mohanta, met the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, in New Delhi yesterday and discussed the situation in the state and the issue regarding holding elections to the assembly.

Our Gauhati correspondent says the district magistrate of Kamrup has ordered closure of all educational institutions for today and tomorrow and also promulgated prohibitory orders under Section 144 CRPC [Criminal Procedure Code] in the district apprehending breach of peace.

Reaction Noted

BK2811100190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In Assam, the state administration has taken up several measures to maintain law and order following the imposition of president's rule. The chief secretary, Mr. H.N. Das, in a statement in Guwahati this morning, has appealed to the people to extend full cooperation to the administrative machinery in maintaining peace and harmony in the state. All police stations have been instructed to register cognizable offenses and take up investigations immediately. The state government has also constituted a designated court at Guwahati for the entire state in view of the threats to judges. Assam was brought under central rule following a presidential proclamation issued in New Delhi late last night. The decision was taken after considering a detailed report from

the state governor, Mr. D.D. Thakur, about the deteriorating law and order situation, particularly the activities of the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam].

The former chief minister of Assam, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, described the imposition of president's rule as a betrayal of the democratic process. He said if the center could hold parliamentary elections in Punjab, why cannot they hold it in Assam? He claimed that the situation in his state is much better when compared to that of Punjab. Mr. Mahanta said that it was also not necessary to declare the entire state a disturbed area and impose the Armed Forces Special Powers Act after president's rule had been imposed.

The former state home minister, Mr. Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, expressed surprise at the center's decision and said it will affect the democratic process. Mr. Gulab Borbora, the state unit president of the Janata Dal, however, held the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] governemnt responsible for the imposition of central rule.

The Assam Pradesh Congress-I Committee president, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia, has welcomed the imposition of president's rule in the state. Speaking to our Guwahati correspondent, Mr. Saikia hoped that under the central rule, lawlessness in the state will be brought to an end and freedom and rights of the people restored. Mr. Saikia also demanded elections in the state at an early date.

Temporary Ban on Industrial Imports Imposed

BK2711122590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 27 (AFP)—India has clamped a ban on the import of industrial raw materials and components until the year-end in the face of a worsening foreign exchange crisis, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

No fresh import licenses will be issued until December 31, and the ban may be extended in case India's foreign currency reserve do not improve by then, THE BUSINESS AND POLITICAL OBSERVER said.

Commerce Ministry sources were quoted as saying that the ban would hurt industrial growth because imports of vital raw materials and components needed by domestic industry would come to a halt.

But the government is not in a position to issue new import licenses, with foreign exchange reserves sliding to an all-time low of 1.74 billion dollars—barely enough to finance a month's imports.

Indian exporters dependent on imports for manufacturing their products will however be spared from the ban because of a "dire need to push up exports," the daily added.

The report came a day after Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar reviewed the balance of payments position to hammer out a strategy to overcome the serious fiscal crunch, partly a result of the Gulf crisis which has caused revenues to fall and the oil import bill to increase steeply.

Ministers and officials holding key economic portfolios were involved in the review, which is expected to be followed by another round of discussions soon before an "action plan" is mapped out.

In the face of limited options, the government has to decide whether to approach the International Monetary Fund for a loan to tide over the crisis or raise resources through commercial borrowings.

Finance Minister Yeshwant Sinha warned after assuming office last Wednesday that tough austerity measures were required to pull the economy out of what he called a "very, very difficult" situation.

Commerce Ministry officials were not immediately available to confirm THE OBSERVER's front-page report, which said the temporary import ban would exempt capital goods.

Capital goods imports materialise about six months after a license is issued, and the government hopes the foreign exchange situation would have improved by then, the daily said.

'Terrorists' Among 18 Killed in Punjab Clash

BK2811091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists, four security force personnel, and a free lance journalist were among the 18 persons killed in separate incidents since last evening.

According to an official spokesman, one hardcore terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces near village Mansinghwala in Faridkot District and another near Hoshiarpur.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Cited on Stance Toward Iraq

PM2711152190 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Exclusive Report for SAWT AL-KUWAYT From Tehran: Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns: We Are With Kuwait and With Legitimacy"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Last Tuesday [20 November], a few days after Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's return from his official visit to Iraq, Iranian media services received instructions from the Islamic Guidance Ministry, which is headed by one of the pillars of the wing allied with Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, namely Dr. Muhammad Khatami, containing a clear order not to publish any comment or news conflicting with the government's declared position on the Gulf crisis and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

According to an Iranian journalist close to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's office, the issuing of statements conflicting with the country's official policy on the Gulf crisis—which is based on the rejection of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and all its subsequent effects, recognition of the legitimate government, and the affirmation of the need for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait without Saddam Husayn's receiving any reward—and the publication of these statements by the press together with comments on them by the groups opposed to the Iranian leadership's method of handling affairs, has angered President Rafsanjani, who has expressed his dissatisfaction with what the press has published recently about the Gulf crisis. And at a National Security Council meeting, which was attended by Islamic Guidance Minister Dr. Khatami, Rafsanjani addressed him: Do we not recognize Kuwaiti legitimacy? Did we not receive the amir's envoy? And do you not know that I have an appointment with the new Kuwaiti ambassador in Tehran, who will be calling on us within the coming few days to present his credentials?

The Iranian president went on: While we continue to reiterate our condemnation of the occupation of Kuwait and openly declare in our statements and at our meetings with foreign reporters our total rejection of any change in our region of the map, whether by granting Iraq a foothold in Kuwait or its islands or by granting him (that is, Saddam Husayn) any financial concession, how can we tolerate the products of revolutionary workshops and the statements of those who were until recently demanding Saddam's head?

At the National Security Council meeting—that is, according to the Iranian journalist—Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained the motives and reasons for sending Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Iraq. The meeting coincided with Velayati's visit to Iraq. The Iranian president revealed that "Velayati's mission to Iraq is not confined to following up the issued raised between the two countries, such as the POW question and the issue of who was the aggressor and who the victim in the Gulf war. In fact there are dangers that made Velayati's visit to Baghdad at this particular time a pressing necessity.

Then the Iranian president spoke about his talks with his Turkish opposite number, Turgut Ozal, held three days before Velayati's visit to Baghdad. He said: "Ozal told me that the international resolution on liberating Kuwait, restoring the situation to the status quo before the aggression, and punishing the Iraqi regime is a principled resolution. And the United States did not send 300,000 troops to the region to intimidate Saddam. These forces are ready to end the occupation and expel the occupiers at any moment. And Saddam Husayn, who was deceived by his delusions and thought that the world in the detente era was still subject to the rules that prevailed in the sixties and seventies (that is, the rules imposed on the world by the two giant powers), will pay a heavy price for his crime.

The Iranian president went on to tell his audience, including Guidance Minister Dr. Khatami: Ozal asked me to convey his warnings to the Iraqi president. He also said that Iraq's disregard of the international will and the international community's determination to liberate Kuwait will cost him his head, and probably the independence and unity of his country, Iraq. Whereas his withdrawal from Kuwait would cause nothing but a little embarrassment. And the man who, after 10 years of war and destruction with Iran, went to his people and told them "my decision to abrogate the Algiers agreement with Iran was wrong, and I now recognize that agreement and am ready to implement all its clauses," that person should not be concerned about greater or lesser embarrassments.

After President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had explained some aspects of his talks with Ozal and the content of the message he sent to his Iraqi opposite number via Velayati, he requested that the guidance minister send instructions to the Iranian media services not to harm Kuwaiti legitimacy and not to publish anything likely to raise questions among the Kuwaitis and the international community supporting the Kuwaiti people and their legitimate government.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT's sources in the Iranian capital say that the Iranian media services have been subjected for nearly a week to strict controls regarding what they publish about the Gulf crisis. And while the censor does not intervene in the reports or comments concerning the Iraqi opposition's activities—in the knowledge that subjects like these and the interviews with Iraqi opposition leaders were not allowed to be published or broadcast following [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Tehran and until the first week in November—he closely follows whatever concerns Kuwait.

The Iranian sources point out that Velayati's visit to Baghdad did not achieve its aims and that the two countries' agreement to resume the process of exchanging POW's and the agreement on drawing the borders do not mean that they hold close views on the Gulf crisis and the future of their relations.

The sources add that the first statement made by Velayati immediately after his arrival in Tehran included an open reference to the difference between the two countries' positions on the occupation of Kuwait. Velayati said: Our position is clear, and we defend Kuwait's independence and oppose its occupation. We informed the Iraqi president, his foreign minister, and the other officials of this. During his meeting with the officials in charge of the sections dealing with Middle East affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and in the presence of Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi, Velayati pointed out that he had informed his Iraqi opposite number of the seriousness of the situation resulting from the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and had advised the Iraqis to "hasten to withdraw from Kuwait to avert the great disaster awaiting us all."

Meanwhile, SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that, despite Saddam Husayn's and Tariq 'Aziz' promises during their meetings with Velayati, Iraq still refuses to reveal the number of Iranian POW's not registered with the International Red Cross or the Iranian Red Crescent Society. In addition, according to Iranian sources, most of these POW's have been forced by the Iraqi authorities to join the "Mojahedin-e Khalq," the Iranian opposition organization that Iraq used during the war as a fifth column and which it is now trying to trade for the leaders of the Call Party, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and some Kurdish groups residing in Iran. But Iran's reply to the Iraqi offer was clear, according to a Supreme Council member, as Iraq was told: These leaders are guests in their second country, Iran, and Muslim Iran adheres to its traditions and culture and refuses to extradite its guests or any political refugee on its territory to the regime which, had it not been for its repressive practices against its people, the sons of that people would not have left in droves.

Khamene'i Delivers Address on Global 'Arrogance'

LD2411191390 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—The leader today spoke of the "absolute sovereignty of Islam" and the "rooting out of arrogance on global scale" as the "main objectives" of the struggles and resistance of the Muslim people of Iran.

Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i likened the Islamic Republic to the sun which "radiates light to the world", and said "by the grace of the Almighty, both friend and foe are acknowledging the success of the Iranian people and officials."

Addressing a group of homecoming prisoners of war, he said the Islamic Republic is treading the path of God towards the full sovereignty of Islam, "a path, neither beset by defeat nor breakdown."

The leader praising the faith and sacrifices of the defenders of the Islamic revolution, noted that the Islamic Republic enjoys a "very good political condition, and is all set for economic development."

However, he added that the need for vigilance is still there because the enemy lies in ambush.

Soviet Envoy Petrovskiy Arrives With Message

LD2811083290 Tehran IRNA in English 0731 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy arrived here Tuesday [27 November] night on a one day visit with a verbal message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning the Persian Gulf crisis.

Petrovskiy was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki.

The Soviet official described his visit to Tehran as "extraordinary and a special mission."

He added that the visit to Tehran is the final leg of a mission to gather viewpoints on the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Petrovskiy added that Moscow is interested in becoming familiar with views of Iran and what should be done under the present conditions as to enable the Security Council to make more appropriate decision.

He said that Moscow attaches great importance to talks with the Iranian side specially that they are being held at the threshold of the Security Council meet.

Furthermore, exchange of views with Iran is highly important for Moscow specially after the visit to Moscow of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He also expressed the hope that the Persian Gulf crisis will be ended through peaceful means. "At present the key is in the hands of Iraq which must abide by the Security Council decisions—withdraw its military forces from Kuwait and release foreign citizens," he said.

On the Soviet stand vis-a-vis giving Iraq a deadline before resort to force, he said, "It is early to make a final judgement. At any rate we believe that Iraq must be given a last chance for a peaceful settlement."

He further added, "at the meantime, we must be realistic that time for finding a political solution is running out and becoming limited ... some even say that it is already too late, but I say it is not too late yet," said Petrovskiy.

U.S. Interests Said 'Endangered' With Attack

LD2811090890 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday [28 November] warned that any attack against Iraq "would mean the death of Western hostages", over 2,000 of whom are held both in Iraq and in the occupied Kuwait.

In is editorial 'is U.S. for a war in Persian Gulf', the English language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' noted that this in turn would easily damage Washington's "humanitarian image" in the world as an advocate of peace and security.

However, it added, a military and economic blow on Iraq by the U.S. would prompt strong anti-American reaction from the Muslim and Arab people of the region.

"It would also threaten the rule of the subservient regimes in the region and strengthen radical sentiments

in the area. This would mean that the U.S. interests throughout the world would be endangered," commented the article.

Moreover, said the daily, a war in the Persian Gulf would also threaten the Zionist regime because Saddam might fulfill his promise and attack Israel with his ballistic missiles and chemical bombs.

It is true that the U.S. can easily enter the battlefield against Iraq but the question is whether the Americans would be able to win the war so easily which, the paper said, is very unlikely.

"The U.S. cannot and does not want to enter a quagmire which would bring it another scandal," concluded the article.

Majles Speaker Karrubi Receives DPRK Minister

LD2711131790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] O Chin-u, acting commander-in-chief and DPRK Minister of People's Armed Forces, this morning met and conferred with Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker. At this meeting, which was attended by Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Revolution Guards, and a group of commanders of that, O Chin-u referred to the strong friendly ties between them and said: We regard the Iranian nation as a sincere and serious nation in pursuing the aims of its revolution and are ready to expand cooperation and all-round ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Karrubi, expressing satisfaction at the cooperation of the two countries since the victory of the Islamic revolution, then described the freedom-seeking struggles of the two countries against imperialism as a crucial factor in the closeness of their relations and added: The first and most important common point in the Islamic revolution and the Korean revolution is the struggles of our nations against the Great Satan, America; our nations were present with self-sacrifice at the side of their leaders during the years of relentless struggle.

The Majles speaker referred to global developments and stressed the need for cooperation and mutual support between revolutionary and third-world countries. He noted that with the prevailing conditions in the world and the one-sided polarization in the world, relations between Third World countries and the need to pay attention to the nations are increasingly paramount. The government of the Islamic Republic and the Majles, with this belief, are prepared to expand relations with the government and nation of the DPRK.

Commentary Reaffirms Support for Intifadah

LD2611142990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1057 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Greetings, dear listeners. The remarks made by the leader [Khamene'i] yesterday about support for the Palestinian uprising is the topic of our first commentary, to which we draw your attention.

Yesterday His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that support for the Palestinian uprising does not mean merely moral, political, and financial support. The Palestinians must be directly supported in their jihad against the Zionist regime.

Today the world is on the eve of the fourth year of the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine, who have amazed everyone with their steadfastness. When three Palestinians were killed in a traffic accident in Gaza three years ago, the occupying regime as usual sent its troops in an attempt to suppress the resulting demonstrations. The regime never imagined that the incident at Jawaliya camp, and before that the escape of a number of revolutionary Muslim Palestinians from prison and the killing of a number of Zionists, could fan the rising flames of the Palestinian uprising.

Over the past three years, with bare hands and using only stones, the Muslim people of Palestine have confronted the occupiers who do not respect any internal norm or law and have time and again trampled on UN Security Council resolutions regarding the occupied lands.

The Israeli regime dares to disregard international decisions because it enjoys support from the United States. Also, the inability of most Arab and superficially Muslim governments to support the Palestinian goal, and their being forced to accept peace and compromise formulas, are additional reasons for the Zionist regime's impudence.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran our country became one of the most important regional and global supporters of the Palestinian goal. In addition to the fact that the overall Islamic direction of the Iranian revolution and system is opposed to Zionism and Israel, Iran constantly gives moral, political, and financial support to the Palestinians.

Unfortunately, most governments in the region and the Muslim world regard the Palestinian goal as a slogan which should only be raised in conferences, and they block any practical assistance to the Palestinians. Nevertheless, over the past few years, with the rising Islamic trend in the region, popular support for the Palestinian uprising and goal has soared. People who have had enough of passive governments have taken action and demonstrated their practical solidarity and sympathy with the struggling people of Palestine. The attack by an Egyptian soldier on a bus carrying Zionist soldiers in occupied Palestine, the suicide action of a combative Lebanese woman in southern Lebanon, and the sea attack by a combative Palestinian group, all of which took place yesterday [25 November], are examples of the solidarity of the people of the region with the Palestinian fighters in the occupied territories.

The uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine is the best way of putting pressure on the Zionist regime. Since its inception that regime has not faced such a deadly phenomenon. Therefore, it is the duty of all Muslims in the region, of the world's freedom seekers, and of all Islamic and progressive governments to support it.

Referring to this point the leader of the Islamic revolution said: The Muslim people of Palestine have risen. Muslims in every corner of the world must make support of the Palestinian jihad their aim and remove the revolting and tragic imbalance inside occupied Palestine.

Now, considering this point, it should be said that the Palestinian uprising has prepared the best ground for dealing blows to arrogance. If Muslim countries would make the slightest effort to give it practical support and—as Ayatollah Khamene'i has said—if Islamic governments and powers would feel responsible about Palestine, they could deal such blows to the United States in this corner of the world of Islam that would shake the pillars of arrogance and would quickly solve the Palestinian issue.

President Concerned for POW's Still in Iraq

LD2411181190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, today received a group of recently repatriated POW's. Expressing satisfaction at the trend of the country's reconstruction, he said: We should combine our efforts so as to advance the country's reconstruction and construction, hence striding toward the building of the country of his holiness, the lord of the age, may God hasten his noble advent.

The president continued: With their return to the Islamic homeland, the POW's brought a totally new atmosphere to the country, further enlivening the Islamic revolution, and bringing joy to the people. He added: We were concerned about the fate of those POW's still held in Iraq under the pretext of serving a sentence; we knew that in general they were sentenced as a result of their increasing resistance and refusal to submit to the wishes of the Ba'thists, but praise be to God, your return alleviated that concern. We hope that our concern regarding the fate of the remaining POW's will likewise be removed.

Continuing his remarks, the president stressed: The issue of the total repatriation of POW's has not yet concluded, and we are still concerned about the uncertain plight of the remaining MIA's in Iraq. Therefore, we will naturally continue negotiations until that issue is finally resolved. The Iraqis must provide us with a satisfactory response.

Remarking that the plight of the remaining Iranian POW's and MIA's will soon be cleared up, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: A list has been compiled of those who we have reason to believe are being held captive by the Iraqis—those whose names or pictures have appeared in the Iraqi press, or whose voice or picture has been broadcast or appeared on Iraqi radio and television, or who have been seen by some in Iraq, or about whom we have other proof of their presence in Iraq. Tomorrow a delegation will set off for Baghdad in search of a satisfactory response. They must provide us with a clear response, and as a rule the Red Cross and the others [as heard] are responsible for the pursuit of this matter.

Concluding his remarks, the president referred to the trend of reconstruction in the country. Addressing the patient POW's, he said: All organizations and ministries are involved in the process of the country's construction and reconstruction. In the wake of the eight years of an unjust and alien war, praise be to God, today our Islamic homeland is striding along the path of construction, and the heroic Iranian nation, too, in the absence of you intrepid men, performed their duties, hence safeguarding the Islamic revolution.

600 Iraqi POW's Released Since 22 November

LD2711111790 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—Some 600 Iraqi prisoners of war have been released and returned to their country since last Thursday [22 November], it was announced here Tuesday [27 November].

Confirming the report, head of the commission in charge of the Iraqi POWs Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran said that an Iranian delegation is currently holding talks with Iraqi officials in Baghdad on the status of the remaining Iranian POWs there.

Iran has recently announced readiness for a daily release of 100 Iraqi POWs provided that Iraq showed good will in this connection.

Meanwhile, Nazaran noted, some 79 Iraqi POWs who had been convicted by Iranian courts were exchanged with over 230 Iranian POWs last week.

*New Appointments to Various Offices Announced

10 Oct 90

91AS0189A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 10 Oct 90 p 10

[Text]

- Ayatollah Khamene'i, the grand leader of the Islamic revolution, appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abu-Torabi, the free-spirited cleric who spent 10 years in captivity in Iraq, as his representative in the affairs of the freed prisoners.
- Upon the proposal of the minister of foreign affairs and the approval of the president, Mohammad Hoseyn Taromi was appointed the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to China.

Previously, he was the charge d'affaires of Iran in Riyadh, an advisor to the minister, and in charge of the headquarters for Resolution 598.

In separate orders issued by Engineer 'Ali Mohammad Nuriyan, deputy minister of roads and head of the national airlines agency, Mahmud Talesh 'Ali Khani was appointed the director general of the airports of Fars Province, Engineer Nabiollah Bozorgnezhad as the head of the airports of Mazandaran Province and director of Nowshahr, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sa'emiyan as the director of Tabriz Airport, and Jamshid Shoja'i as the deputy director of the Hamadan Airport.

In separate orders issued by Engineer Nahavandiyan, administrative and financial deputy of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, 'Abbas Fakur was appointed director general of administrative affairs and 'Ali Malek 'Abbasi as the director general of the public relations office of this ministry.

In an order issued by Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abu-Torabi was appointed representative of the judicial branch for the affairs of the freed prisoners.

In an order issued by Engineer Naraqi, the general manager of the communications company, Zia'eddin Shoja'i-Borhan was appointed deputy director for provisions of this company.

Upon the proposal of the national chief of police and the approval of the minister of interior, Lieutenant General Fathollah Heydari was appointed the new director of the Tehran office of traffic and driving. Previously, he was acting director of the Tehran office of traffic and driving.

17 Oct 90

91AS0189B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 17 Oct 90 p 3

[Text]

- Ruhollah Mehdizadeh, a liberated educator, was appointed the director of education of Fin District of the Province of Hormozgan and began his duties.

Mehdizadeh was a prisoner of the Iraqi forces for eight years.

In an order issued by the minister of culture and higher education, Dr. Ja'far Nili-Monfared was appointed as the deputy minister for students of that ministry.

In an order issued by Dr. Seyyed Jamaleddin Sajjadi, the director of the Iranian medical sciences university, Dr. Feridun Nuhi was appointed as the educational deputy director of this university.

Previously, Dr. Nuhi was deputy director for treatment affairs of the Ministry of Health.

In an order issued by Dr. 'Ali Qanbari, deputy minister of the Reconstruction Jihad and head of the national organization for tribal affairs, Dr. Seyyed Hasan Ahmadinezhad was appointed as the head of the veterinary office of the Iranian organization for tribal affairs and began his duties.

In an order issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Heydarzadeh, the representative of the grand leader to the Reconstruction Jihad, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khatami was appointed head of ideological training of the Reconstruction Jihad.

In an order issued by Vice President Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, head of the Plan and Budget Organization, Mohammad Ebrahim Hardorudi was appointed head of the Plan and Budget Organization of Gilan Province.

Rahmani, deputy minister of interior and head of the national registration office, made the following appointments:

Asghar Afshari, as adviser and head of the agency and director of the training center of the national registration agency.

Mostafa Qasemi, as the director general of the registration office of Yazd Province.

31 Oct 90

91AS0189C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 31 Oct 90 p 4

[Text]

- The public prosecutor of Tehran appointed in separate orders the directors and supervisors of Districts 1, 11, and 14 of the public prosecutor's office.

Naser Arianpur, as the head of District 1 of the prosecutor's office, investigating general offenses.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Barzgar, as the head of District 11 of the prosecutor's office located in Mehrabad Airport, investigating general and counterrevolutionary offenses.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ashtiani, as the head of District 14, investigating general offenses, in particular moral and prohibited offenses.

Vice Commodore Mohammad Zahedi was appointed by Commodore Shamkhani as the commander of the second naval district of Bushehr.

In an order by Shams-Ardakani, the director of the Qeshm free port, Mohammad Reza Sabbagh-Amirkhizi was appointed as the head of the administrative office of Qeshm free port area and began his duties.

In an order issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Khatami, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Mohammad Molazem was appointed as the director general of the administrative office of the coordinating council for government propaganda.

In accordance with an order issued by the minister of housing and urban development, Hoseyn Anvari was

appointed as the cultural and parliamentary affairs deputy of that ministry and began his duties.

7 Nov 90

91AS0189D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 7 Nov 90 p 3

[Text]

- In accordance with an order issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 'Ataollah Mohajerani was appointed representative of the president in the committee in support of the Islamic revolution of the people of Palestine.

This order was issued in accordance with Article 5 of the law of support for the Islamic revolution of the people of Palestine ratified on 9 May 1990 by the Majles and for the purpose of necessary follow-up and coordination.

In accordance with an order issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Mohsen Armin was appointed general manager of the Islamic thought foundation.

In separate orders issued by Asgar Tabataba'i, the deputy minister of housing and director general of the urban land agency, Reza Foruzandeh was appointed as the general manager of the urban land office of Tehran Province, Mohammad 'Azizi as the director of administrative affairs, and Biyuk Saremnia as the director of properties of this organization.

In orders issued by the mayor of Tehran, Mohammad Aqakhani was appointed as the deputy for coordination and planning and 'Abdol Rasul Tafazzoli as financial and administrative deputy of Tehran City Hall.

In an order issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Sane'i, the representative of the religious guardian and head of the 15 Khordad Foundation, Dr. Hasan Ghafurifard, vice president and head of the national physical education agency, was appointed head of the technological office of the 15 Khordad dam, with full authority.

The reasons for this appointment are the experiences of Dr. Ghafurifard in the Ministry of Energy and the regular cooperation of that ministry in regard to the construction of the 15 Khordad dam.

Commodore Shamkhani, the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, presented Vice Commodore Bahman Shafiqi as the coordinating deputy of the navy.

Upon the proposal of the Tehran office of investigations and the approval of the deputy director of the Police department for pursuit and uncovering of crimes, new heads for seven branches were appointed and began their duties.

The names of the appointees are as follows: (1) Colonel Mohammad 'Ali Keyhani, for the Shemiran branch; (2) Colonel Javad Behjati, for the western branch; (3) Major Gholam'abbas Heydari, the eastern branch; (4) Colonel Baqeri, branch 16; (5) Colonel Kalantari, branch 14; (6) Colonel Hejazi, branch 7; and (7) Colonel Kho'ini, for branch 3.

Upon the suggestion of the minister of foreign affairs and the approval of the president, Mansur Gerani was appointed the new ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Denmark.

Seyyed Shamseddin Kharqani was appointed the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic in England.

Upon the suggestion of Dr. Velayati and the approval of the president, Mohammad Mehdi Purgol was appointed the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Norway.

Purgol had previously been the head of the theological faculty in Mashhad, representative of the Majles, and adviser to the minister of foreign affairs.

*RESALAT Reports 9 Oct Majles Session

91AS0123A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Oct 90 p 5

[Text]

Report on the Open Session of the Majles Yesterday

Legal and parliamentary division:

The Majles held an open session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan presiding. In this session, Mr. Eslami, the representative of Baft, spoke as the only pre-agenda speaker. Then the Majles went into session.

Below you shall read the speech of the pre-agenda speaker and the ratifications of the Majles.

Yadollah Eslami, the Representative of the People of Baft

The exchange of ideas and views will help correct many issues.

The only pre-agenda speaker in the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mr. Yadollah Eslami from Baft electoral district of Kerman, who, honoring the anniversary of the birth of the prophet and speaking on some of the struggles and the character of his holiness, said: Not only do the thinkers need an appropriate opportunity to present their views, but the rulers need to adopt their reformist views, because, for one reason or another, in making any decision, attention to particular points might be neglected. The precision and clarifications of critics reveal the mistakes and deviations and show the correct path to the officials. Careful critics can be trustworthy advisors to those who hold office and can be self-sacrificing guides in solving problems.

He added: If the officials would pay attention to the reformists and the constructive views of enlightened thinkers, they would be encouraged to be actively and

permanently present on the scene. The exchange of ideas and views will help correct many issues. It should be pointed out that providing the grounds for criticism of the actions of the officials is necessary for freedom.

Mr. Eslami emphasized: Providing the grounds for active and progressive ideas will keep the officials from looking at one side of the issue and not scrutinizing all aspects, will aid in the development of the society, and will prevent likely deviations and restrictions on social liberties.

The representative of Bafeq [as published] pointed out: Those who empathize with the revolution usually have something to say. Attention to constructive criticism and allowing room for the experts will take away the opportunity from the flatterers and sycophants to dominate the scene.

He added: The grounds for fabricated slander and accusations will be eliminated in a sound climate where views are expressed without grudges and the faces of opportunists who think of nothing but personal gain and lack sincerity towards everyone are revealed. On the other hand, we who claim freedom and social justice and consider the Islamic regime to be a grounds for the growth and perfection of human beings have no choice but to provide an arena for the expression of ideas. We who consider social consciousness a factor in the survival of the regime and the overall presence of the people on the scene as the solution to the problems of the revolution have no choice but to give room to creative and progressive ideas. That is why sincerity in dealing with and appropriate employment of committed forces and avoiding careless behavior must be paid attention to as necessary factors.

If we had created a sound climate in which those with differing views could engage in discussions and the exchange of ideas in a friendly environment without the fear of slander and accusations, and in which they could express their views about the social issues and their differences, we would not have witnessed the events of recent days. What would happen if, from the first day that we witnessed the appearance of various ideas by individuals and factions about current issues, we were to invite those holding such views and their critics to a public debate in a radio and television round-table in order to clarify the ambiguities and problematic points in a friendly meeting devoid of quarrels and the use of unpleasant utterances? We would overcome the problems in a unified way, try to solve them, and by sincerely presenting the reasons and various viewpoints, we would prevent the escalation of chaos. Is it not unfortunate that some have forgotten the responsibility of the pen, and, with the unjust accusation of respectable personalities who hold an office in the regime, they escalate enmities and hostilities, are unkind to the children of the revolution and engage in insults and exposing others? It would be better for writers and speakers, instead of engaging in attacks and insults, to follow the path of reasoning and proof and, in all cases and while discussing the views of the critics, to express their opinions and rationally refute those views. In discussing views and opinions, the press and media, particularly those who support a particular organization or group, should observe the principle of impartiality and try to broaden the thoughts and ideas in the society. If, God forbid, the press continues to bolster its own ego, the reduction of social liberties will become a distinct possibility, which is a vital threat to the future of the revolution.

He continued: Thank God, the elections of the Assembly of Experts concluded happily. But I have one question left for the press: Is refusing to publish the communique of the "Combatant Clergy Association [Majma'-e Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez]," whose members are the speaker of the Majles, the minister of Islamic guidance, and the high advisor to the leader, and which is the only political group of clerics legally active, not a threat to freedom?

My argument does not concern accepting or rejecting the communique. I am speaking about the action of the press and newspapers in the country, which are considered an important base of freedom. When the logic is just and strong, what need is there for fights and arguments? A person who treads the path of truth needs not fear criticism. A person who believes in justice will certainly act upon the opinion of a critic if it is valid and would not consider doing so beneath his dignity. The effect of criticism and the increase in good public participation in deciding the fate of the society is the natural consequence of freedom. "Criticism" shows the path to achieving perfection, escaping likely errors, and preventing deviations, all of which are necessary to a revolutionary society.

He continued: Resorting to slander and accusations solves nothing, but adds to our problems and draws the rival into responding. Differences of opinion and interpretations must not become factors which create gaps and the appearance of hostilities. The disuniting factors must be identified and the disuniting elements must be rejected. The enemies of Islam and the revolution are still conspiring and planning to disjoin the Islamic power of this country. They are trying to destroy the fruit of the pain and suffering of the "Great Khomeyni" and all the strugglers for freedom and the self-sacrificing martyrs. They use the fancy tricks up their sleeves, and it is the duty of the true combatants and those nurtured in the school of the imam to continue alertly their rugged path against global oppression and in a united fashion to defend unwaveringly the principles.

We who speak of unity among various Islamic sects and call everyone to be united, we who have tasted unity, why do we not take steps toward greater friendship and unity among the combatants and revolutionaries?

He pointed out: In order to bring the views closer together and attain a completely ideal form, that is, "unity of views and opinions," with regard to other issues, including foreign policy, the expansion of relations with Western governments, positions taken in

connection with the military presence of the Great Satan in the Persian Gulf, the issue of relations with the rulers of Saudi Arabia and other cases about which the various factions who have faith in the Islamic revolution do not hold the same opinion, the method of open discussion and debate is the best to be used. The broadcast of such issues from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic will certainly have a greater and better effect than do old, repetitive films.

Explanations of Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji of the Reasons for Not Participating in the Open Session on Sunday

Following the failure to hold the open session of the Majles on Sunday, Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji announced in a letter his reasons for not participating as follows:

On Sunday, 7 October 1990, I refused to attend the open session of the Majles.

All brothers and sisters and those who are familiar with the programs of the Majles in the country and abroad know that I have placed and still do place the greatest importance on the Majles and that I have been present in all the programs of the Majles, the committees and discussions, and that the number of times I have been late or absent is negligible. Hence, I consider it necessary to inform the noble people of Iran about my absence from the open session that day.

During all three Majles terms, this is the first time that an open session was not held because of the intentional absence of a number of people. But the most important of our reasons for not being present in the session are as follows:

1. For the first time since the victory of the Islamic revolution, last week's session of the Majles to hold the elections for the Assembly of Experts, despite the desire of all the institutions, organizations, and forces of the country and the noble people of Iran to hold these elections as magnificently as possible and to preserve and strengthen the sacred Islamic regime, was taken along the wrong path, counter to the Constitution and Islamic and humane standards, by a group which has taken over the administration of the Majles and has marred the dignity and sanctity of the Majles, which has been and must be the essence of the virtues of the nation.

2. For the first time, several pre-agenda speakers in several sessions openly insulted the most important and noble organizations of the regime of the Islamic Republic, that is, the Assembly of Leadership Experts and the honorable Council of Guardians of the Constitution, which have been supported and endorsed by the imam and the noble people of Iran, in order to ratify and implement the election laws of the Assembly of Experts. In his pre-agenda speech, Mr. Hashemiyan, who presided over the session at the time, instead of supporting and strengthening the Constitution (Article 108) and preserving the sanctity of the law ratified by the Assembly of Experts, questioned it, and the deputy speaker of the legislative branch of the country, who must respect the law more than anyone else, totally disregarded it.

3. For the first time in the Majles, contrary to the Constitution, some, with knowledge and awareness of the clear contradiction of a proposal to the Constitution (as their statements revealed), signed that proposal, and, requesting a priority-three (which is reserved exclusively for emergency and very important situations), offered it to the Majles, and with this proposal, they involved the Majles in an issue which is out of its jurisdiction. They turned an institution created by the people's cries of God is great into an instrument by which to prevent the widespread presence of the people in the election for the Assembly of Leadership Experts. By instilling doubt in the hearts of the people, they made them lose heart and become skeptical about the most important religious, jurisprudential, just, and revolutionary figures.

4. So far, several times the Majles has ratified and amended the law for the implementation of and supervision over the elections for the Majles and the presidency. However, it had not before deemed it necessary to devise a law concerning "the number of candidates in all elections being twice the number of those elected." Now, what has happened that at the start of the election for the Assembly of Experts it raises this issue? Has every representative not taken an oath upon entering the Majles to defend the Constitution? Then why have they interfered wittingly and consciously in the law for the election of the Assembly of Experts, in violation of Article 108, and hurriedly ratified this proposal in order to interfere in this issue, and as an emergency, even though they know that the honorable Council of Guardians will not endorse ratifications that are unconstitutional?

5. Following the creation of the ruckus, slander, and accusations in opposition to the law ratified by the Assembly of Leadership Experts and the efforts to disrupt the work of the honorable Council of Guardians, the legal source for determining the competence of the candidates of that assembly, although the statements made by Mr. Mohtashamipur and several others have no legal and religious basis and they and we saw that such statements are not accepted by anyone, and the grand leader openly considered it incorrect, saying, "The ratified law has no problems and the Council of Guardians consists of just and...religious jurists,"

Still a number of people in the Majles have continued to do what they had been doing, and, just because the Council of Guardians did not approve a few people because they lack the legal competence to be candidates for the Assembly of Experts, taking undue advantage of the Majles podium, they have unjustly attacked its members.

Where in the world is the competence of the candidates decided by the candidates themselves? Which law

accepts the statements of the candidate who considers himself to meet the requirements but offers no proof?

6. The board of directors of the Majles had never held an open session between holidays (such as Sunday, 7 October 1990, which was between Saturday, on which day the Majles does not hold an open session, and Monday, which was an official holiday due to the birthday of the prophet) and this had become a common practice. There have been times when proposals and bills concerning important national issues were on the agenda of the Majles, but the Majles was closed and did not meet some of its sessions for such reasons as days falling between holidays, or propaganda for Unity Week or the 10 Days of Dawn. However, in contrast to this common practice, they announced an open session on Sunday. Was it the interests of the regime which required such an action or the interests of a small group?

7. The board of directors of the Majles has taken an oath of impartiality in operating the affairs of the Majles. But of the more than 100 who were absent in the open session of 7 October 1990, it only announced the names of 55 persons. Nearly 130 persons were present in the Majles on Sunday, 7 October 1990, and about 30 persons were on vacation, which makes a total of 160. When deducted from the total number of 265 representatives of the Majles, there were 105 people absent. Why did the board of directors of the Majles avoid announcing the names of the remainder of those absent?

In conclusion, I must point out that for the above-mentioned reasons, due to the nature of the issue on the agenda and the discussions that were frequently raised contrary to religious law and the interests of the regime and in violation of the dignity and credibility of the Majles, which cause the Muslim nation to lose heart, disrupt the creation of unity, and result in disrespect for the decisive and fatherly message of the grand leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, on Wednesday 2 October 1990, I declined to participate in the session on Sunday, 7 October 1990. Not only did I refuse to participate, but I expressed my views to my honorable colleagues, and perhaps other honorable representatives who consciously declined to attend the session are of the same mind.

May God protect all the serving officials from following the dictates of their passion and errors and set the Majles on the path and course that the revered imam, the Constitution, and the religious guardians have shown, to move actively and to work in a way that is expected by the revolutionary Muslim nation and the oppressed of the world.

'Ali Movahhedi-Saveji, Representative of the People of Saveh

Explanations of Mr. Saleh-Abadi

Following the report on the open session of the Majles last Wednesday, Mr. Saleh-Abadi, the representative of Mashhad, announced in a letter: "I did not tear up the pre-agenda speech of Mr. Zamaniyan, the representative of Nahavand, on Wednesday, 3 October 1990. What has been reported in the press is absolutely false, since more than 200 representatives were present in the Majles and witnessed it."

Our correspondent asked Mr. Zamaniyan, the representative of Nahavand, about this issue. He responded: "When I was delivering my speech on Wednesday, 3 October 1990, about 120 to 130 people were present in the session, and not 200 people. The eyewitnesses will verify that my speech was torn up by Mr. Saleh-Abadi and his friends."

The Ratifications of the Majles

The report of our parliamentary correspondent indicates that the first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was a continuation of the examination of the double urgency proposal for "determining the number of candidates in elections." Upon the suggestion of a number of representatives, a single urgency status was omitted, and the proposal was put to a vote and ratified.

Also, in regard to whether or not the Majles can examine urgency proposals made in the absence of the members of the Council of Guardians, votes were taken, and the bill was not ratified.

The second item on the agenda was the bill for employment of local workers for tours of duty abroad, which was discussed. This bill was put to a vote and was rejected.

The legislative proposal for supporting production of domestic livestock was also discussed in the session yesterday and was ratified by the representatives.

The bill for collecting some of the government revenues and using them in certain cases was the next item on the agenda of the open session yesterday, which after statements by a number of representative was put to a vote for implementation for a trial period and ratified for implementation until the end of the first five-year plan for the economic, social, and cultural development of the country.

The last item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions concerning the rejection of the bill attaching one note to Article 49 of the national employment law, the discussion of which was postponed to the next session.

Also, regarding the selection of two representatives in implementing Article 10 of the law for supervising the activities of groups and political parties, Messrs. Najafqoli Habibi and Saleh-Abadi were elected.

In the beginning of the open session yesterday, the communique of the board of directors of the Majles concerning the open session on Sunday not being held was read.

This communique states: On Sunday morning, the Majles did not officially come to order due to the absence of a number of representatives, who did not participate in the session for political reasons as part of a predetermined plan. At the end of the communique, the names of those absent from the open session on Sunday were announced as follows: Arbabi-Fard, Imam Musavi, Bahonar, Borumand, Banihashemi, Parvaresh, Towhidi, Tavassoli, Hasan Ja'fari, Beytollah Ja'fari, Chitchiyan, Haji Naseri, Hejazifar, Hoseyni-Zeydabadi, Kheyrkhah, Damadi, Raji, Raja'i-Khorasani, Rahimnezhad, Rahimi (Qarveh), Reza'i (Andimeshk), Ranjbar, Hasan Rowhani, Zamaniyan, Sobhaninia, Shar'i, Shahraki, Shahriari, Sheybani, Zia'i, Tabataba'i (Mashhad), 'Abbasi, 'Arab-'Ameri, 'Azimi, 'Alavi, 'Enayat, Faza'eli, Kazemi-Dinan, Kamyar, Kiayinezhad, Fazel-Hamadani, Mahmudi, Morsali, Mo'tamedinia, Movahhedi-Saveji, Movashshah, Mehdizadeh, Mirghaffari, Mirzapur, Ahmad Nateqi-Nuri, Akbar Nateqi-Nuri, Nabavi, Yusofpur, Musavi-Nanehkaran.

*RESALAT Reports 10 Oct Majles Session

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[Text] Legal and Majles Division—Yesterday's public Majles session convened in the morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that the Majles began its agenda after speeches by the deputies from Sarband, West Eslamabad, Zanjan, and Bakhtaran.

Printed below are the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers, comments by the deputy speaker of the Majles, and the measures enacted by the Majles.

Mahmud Astaneh, Sarband and Shazand Deputy

The first speaker at yesterday's Majles session was Mr. Mahmud Astaneh, the representative of the people of Sarband and Shazand. He observed that we are now beginning the fourth year of the Palestinian uprising. He said: By invading and occupying Kuwait, the Ba'thist regime dealt the most severe blow to the Palestinian revolutionaries and combatants. At a time when the peak of the Palestinian uprising was the world's leading news story, in another act of aggression Iraq provided justification for Israel's crimes in occupying the lands of Palestine, and transferred the crisis in the region to Kuwait.

The speaker added: At the beginning of the fourth year of the Palestinian uprising, during the bloody clashes at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem, Israeli forces martyred tens of Palestinian and injured hundreds.

Continuing his remarks, the Sarband and Shazand deputy noted the way the United Nations Security Council regarded these aggressions and merciless Zionist killings. With emphasis, he asked: Is there any better evidence that the decisions of that council are dominated by the satanic power of several nations, including America, that it makes its decisions based on their interests, and whenever it sees its interests endangered, it vetoes them?

He emphasized: Despite recent changes in the area and the passing of more than three years since the Palestinian uprising, the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories continues, the killing and the beatings get worse every day, burning bullets still rip open the breasts of insurgent young people, and oppressive clubs shatter the rock-throwing arms of Palestinian youths, but the UN Security Council watches in silence, and a deathly silence has overtaken the hand-picked leaders of the Arab countries.

The Sarband and Shazand deputy added: Criminal America, the emigrant-sending Soviet Union, and the usurper Zionists must know that we will carry out the will of His Holiness the late great Emam Khomeyni, who commanded that Israel must be destroyed, and we will liberate the land of Jerusalem from the clutches of the murdering usurpers.

He added: The cries of the brave men and women of the intifada are louder that the screams of bullets, and their stones are more powerful than the enemy war machines.

The speaker said: I call upon the respected Majles Speakers Council to implement as quickly as possible the Law to Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine, which orders the Majles Speakers Council to strengthen this support in various ways and to convene as quickly as possible a conference of representatives from Islamic nations and experts on this subject.

Ne'matollah Asadi, West Eslamabad and Karand Deputy

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was the West Eslamabad and Karand deputy. He offered congratulations on the triumphant return of the dear former prisoners of war to the Muslim nation and to their respected families, and he called upon officials to make serious efforts to resolve their problems and difficulties.

He added: We have our latest great victory because of the struggles and sacrifices of these same fighters for the path of Truth and their respected families. In this same regard I will mention the ever-proud warriors, the great families of martyrs, and the disabled. God forbid that there should be even one time when they cannot resolve their difficulties, because the Islamic revolution is eternally indebted to the martyrs, the former prisoners of war, the disabled, the veterans, and their great families; no matter how much attention we give to these dear ones, it still won't be enough, although their most important expectation is protecting the Islamic revolution, and when the officials carry out their responsibilities in this matter, in any direction, it will make them happy. The unparalleled welcome by the officials and the people for the entry of

the former prisoners of war into the Islamic nation will be recorded in Iran's proud history. It is expected that in dealing with the former prisoners of war, officials will always bear in mind this sincerity and eagerness, so that, God willing, they will not be forgotten.

He added: The government has the responsibility in any way possible to make use of the great former prisoners of war in various ways, and not permit these true believers in the Islamic revolution to be forgotten.

Noting the beginning of the new academic year, he said: It is expected that special attention will be given to nurturing before teaching, and that requires expeditious attention in every way to the condition of the nation's educators, because as long as the professor, the teacher, and the educator do not enjoy relative welfare in terms of housing, wages, and other benefits, under no circumstances can one expect to make the progress demanded by the needs of the revolutionary society in this connection. Most educators, who ought to be doing additional study in the vacation season to enable them to teach better, are unfortunately obliged to take a second job to meet their needs. On the one hand this is beneath their position, and on the other it will have an effect on the qualitative advance of student knowledge. Special attention must also be given to students, who, despite their great intelligence, are unable to continue their studies, especially to the level of higher education, because of financial weakness. Here I deem it necessary to remind the Ministry of Education and Training to deal expeditiously with the disorderly state of the management of education and training in the province, and I want to note that in the province and its municipalities fortunately we have committed, religious, and experienced teachers who unfortunately are not being considered.

Mr. Asadi said: Last Monday, which coincided with the births of the prophet of God and Emam Ja'far Sadeq, again we saw the solidarity and unity of the Islamic nation in the matter of the elections for the Assembly of Experts. In view of the guidance from the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and the fact that the people understood well that our government's legitimacy lies in velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], they participated actively in this vital matter, and they showed the world again their unity and their loyalty to the supreme jurisconsult. Here I consider it necessary to thank the noble people of the province, especially the great people of West Eslamabad and Karand, for their active participation in the elections for the Assembly of Experts, and to congratulate them for their good choices, because His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam Kazemi and His Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Akhundi are long-time servants of the Islamic revolution and the noble people of the province.

He noted that the problems of the Persian Gulf have reached a sensitive stage. He said: The people of the area, especially our revolutionary nation, must be completely vigilant and realize how world-devouring America, whose aggressive nature is clear to everyone, and the effects of whose aggression on many hidden and exposed nations are still fresh, can make it believable that its presence in the area is to eliminate aggression. If we believe a vicious wolf will support a sheep, this claim is also believable! There are many analyses concerning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and America's military presence in the sensitive Persian Gulf area, but America undoubtedly had to have a pretext for its presence in the area, and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was the best pretext for this presence. The best solution to this crisis and the best way to disarm America's propaganda weapon is to form a military force made up of countries in the region supervised by the UN, to alleviate the invasion of Kuwait and end the crises. In this regard, to prevent possible aggression by aggressors such as Iraq, the nations of the region must reach some basic and calculated agreements with one another, so there will be no more aggression and bullying.

He added: While the Persian Gulf was being invaded by pirates, especially America, the Zionist regime and its henchmen created a black Monday in oppressed Palestine. I offer my condolences for this calamity to the Muslim people of the world, especially to the dear people of Palestine. This corrupt regime must realize that that by oppressively martyring Muslims it can neither eclipse aggression by plundering foreigners in the Persian Gulf nor can it take away even a particle of the iron will of the Palestinian fighters. Indeed, we always regard America as the primary cause of the crisis, especially in the Middle East, and until the final victory of the Palestinian nation we will be with them, and having given their latest martyrs to freedom, they will continue on their path with greater determination than before.

He said: We tried not to drag the problems of the province into the Majles, but despite our many meetings with the respected officials, especially the respected interior minister, not the slightest positive result was produced. Indeed, the province's disorderly conditions have become much worse. If there was formerly a veil of decency and it was observed to some extent, that has also been torn, and no principles are being observed, to the point that in the province they censor the representative of the people. On God's day, 11 February, the district governor kept the representative of the people from talking, and the deputy, to prevent a disturbance, was obliged not to speak. Or after about two hours of waiting, and on the governor-general's public meeting day, even though the governor-general knew about it, unfortunately the representative was unable to meet with him, and in short those deputies, along with their friends and affiliates who are not following the line, will in various ways be subjected to unkindness and bad treatment. Therefore, because it is our duty, we will at least defend the representative of the people. I say to the Interior Ministry that it is either one of two things. You either approve of this form of management, or you don't. If you are opposed to it, why haven't you done anything yet? If, God forbid, you approve of it, the Majles must make another decision to defend the honor and prestige of the

Majles, and in fact the people. I must say to those brothers who are fighting over whether to call the provincial center Bakhtaran or Kermanshah that you are both mistaken, because the name of the province more closely resembles Esfahan than Kermanshah or Bakhtaran, because everyone from the governor-general to the mayor is from Esfahan. We are not opposed to people coming to our province to assume office from Esfahan, Khorasan, Shiraz, or anywhere else, but is our province, with its proud history, so devoid of men of stature that they must come from elsewhere? He said: We are grateful to those who come to our province from other provinces, assume office and serve the people, but we do not accept them dealing with the representatives of the people, and especially with the people, in this way. I therefore insistently ask the respected Interior Ministry to revise its view quickly of the province's management, or answer to the consequences.

Concerning the hiring and continued study of the oppressed youth following the Truth, I must say that unfortunately, despite the special favor of His Excellency Mr. Rafsanjani, the respected president of the republic, which led to issuance of guidance signed by the heads of the three powers, no attention is being paid to the people who are following the Truth.

Despite the way these people have shown themselves by passing many tests in different phases of the revolution, the statistics on martyrs, veterans, former prisoners of war, and disabled people following the Truth show that they are true to the government of the Islamic Republic and they stand by it. Therefore, isn't it time they received the rights the law has provided?

I therefore ask the respected president of the republic to affirm in this regard that there will be special attention and measures taken.

Davud Haji-Naseri, Zanjan Deputy

Mr. Haji-Naseri, the Zanjan deputy, was the third pre-agenda speaker. With reference to the solid turnout of the brave people of Iran for the elections to the Assembly of Experts, he said: Once more, on 8 October, which coincided with 17 Rabi' al-Awwal, the joyous birthday of His Holiness the most noble prophet (peace be upon him) and Emam Ja'far Sadeq (may God hasten his joyful advent), the brave Muslim people of Iran, following the supreme jurisconsult to continue the path of the line of the imam (may God have mercy upon him), went to the polls and voting places across the country to vote for members of the second Assembly of Experts, showing their concern for the Islamic Republic. They displayed their power, political growth, social awareness, and revolutionary fervor to the people of the world, and they brought despair and hopelessness to the enemies of Islam, the revolution, independence, and freedom. "Today those who reject faith have given up all hope of your religion." [Quoting the Koran] Those who were hoping that the good and faithful people of Iran would not turn out for the elections and constantly made propaganda that the people of the Islamic Republic would give little response to the elections for the Assembly of Experts realized that the proud nation of Iran, as in the lifetime of His Holiness Ayatollah Khomeyni (may God have mercy on him), the great founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, are involved with determination on the scene to determine their destiny. This is the second election since the passing of His Holiness the Imam (may his grave be sanctified), which the government carried out with the cooperation of the nation.

He then discussed remarks made by some pre-agenda speakers in the days before the elections for the Assembly of Experts. He said:

Some of the pre-agenda speakers in recent days in the Majles disturbed and discomfited the exalted leader. I will give four examples:

1. The action taken by the Assembly of Experts in its form was confirmed and approved by the exalted leader, and it is not true that they gave the opposite opinion after learning the view of the supreme jurisconsult concerning a question, in the sense where it was said that this measure was ugly and bad, and has bad effects.

2. The confirmation of the respected theologians of the Council of Guardians, all of whom in terms of theology are clearly persons with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence, just, aware of the exigencies of the time, and appointed by the imam (may God have mercy upon him) through the exalted leader His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, is really a form of consultation, and it is not right for anyone to doubt their theological standing, justness, or awareness of the times.

3. The exalted leader said, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the basic election and in my view the views of a peacemaker such as this will lead society in the direction of its interests. If we say that these are not elections, that unfortunately they are appointments, that is at variance, even contradiction with the view of the exalted leader.

4. Following the rule of the supreme jurisconsult, which is the basis of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is incumbent upon everyone, and in practice it is this following that resolves crisis and change, and not talk and claims. In reality the crux of unity, the essence of the glory and legitimacy of our system, government, Majles, and judiciary lies in the existence of a just, aware, brave, and wisely managing supreme jurisconsult, and since the death of the imam (may God have mercy on him) this role of supreme jurisconsult has fallen to His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, and God willing we hope that this leadership will continue until the return of His Holiness the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent).

The speaker noted: If Muslim people following the supreme jurisconsult are kind and concerned about us, it is because they are following the supreme jurisconsult.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Davud Haji-Naseri vigorously condemned the tragic and disastrous slaughter of Palestinians in Jerusalem by the criminal usurper Zionists. He said:

This great crime has met with a reaction from the Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, and Jordanian Muslims, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself have announced a strong position. Unfortunately, the latest Security Council resolution condemning the usurper murderer Zionists was vetoed by America, and as a Muslim and a parliamentary deputy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I vigorously condemn this crime. It must be said the victory is with the Truth and with the revolutionary and Hezbollah Muslims, and the Zionists are condemned to the trash heap.

In conclusion, the Zanjan and Tarom 'Olia deputy discussed the problems in his own electoral district. He said: (1) In view of the relatively high unemployment statistics in Zanjan, it is incumbent upon the Islamic government to plan quickly to create employment in the struggling city of Zanjan. (2) In view of the shortage of classroom space in Zanjan, as well as the central district and the city of Tarom 'Olia, and the fact that most of the schools in Zanjan are operating in three shifts, I remind the Ministry of Education and Training and the other relevant organizations to cooperate in the creation of classroom space with seriousness and speed. (3) In view of the shortage of educational resources in Zanjan, I earnestly ask the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to convert this city from region one to region two with regard to its share of universities. (4) Likewise, in view of the devastating earthquake of 21 June in the province of Zanjan and the arrival of the cold season, the deprived people of Tarom 'Olia protest and criticize the reconstruction process, which is actually proceeding slowly, despite the work and effort of the designated province (the province of East Azarbaijan) and recently the municipalities in the province of West Azarbaijan, and in this regard the Interior Ministry, by giving resources, views, and follow-up, can act expeditiously. (5) In conclusion, the Muslim people of Zanjan are seriously suffering from a shortage of potable water, and I ask the respected Majles and the government to confer the necessary favor on this vital matter, which is important politically and socially.

Ashrafi-Esfahani, Bakhtaran Deputy

The fourth and final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Mohammad Ashrafi-Esfahani, from the Bakhtaran electoral district.

He said: The Iranian nation's Islamic revolution was one of the greatest events of history, which arose out of faith, orthodoxy, and their belief in achieving freedom and their goal to bring about the rule of the Koran and the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him), and to defend genuine humane and revolutionary values led by the exalted leader and the great leader of the Islamic revolution, and on this sacred path the dear nation of Iran paid a heavy price. Sacred and pure blood was shed for the revolution by great men and political and learned personalities such as the Martyrs of 28 June and 30 August, the great Martyrs of the Pulpit, Martyr Motahari and thousands of other martyrs, disabled people, prisoners and veterans, unprecedented by any other uprising in history, or at least almost unprecedented.

He added: In bringing to fruition this sacred uprising, especially in the eight years of the imposed war, this dear nation endured many pressures and much damage, the greatest of which was the tragic lost of the dear imam, who will never be forgotten.

The speaker added: What has been inspiring since the death of the dear imam is the nation's spirit of unity and solidarity. The entire nation, like the children and members of a family that had lost its father, worked to preserve their basis and foundation, and put aside petty differences to guard the revolution, the imam's line, its values and achievements, and to preserve basic and actual interests and spared no effort to obey and follow absolutely the exalted leader. This solidarity and unity was such that it surprised everyone and confounded the enemy, but when the elections for the Assembly of Experts came up, a group of the true friends of the imam and the revolution were pushed aside, and those who had suffered and were imprisoned and beaten for the revolution were excluded from the elections for the Assembly of Experts, it seems that all the work and effort was wasted, and that which had been sought by the enemies of the revolution came to pass and this ultimately led to disappointment and severe pain for the hezbollahi forces and created a breach in the solid ranks of the revolutionary nation of Iran. In view of the guidance of the exalted leader concerning what has happened there is no longer any room for discussion. It is hoped that this bitter episode will serve as a lesson and will not be repeated.

With reference to the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Ashrafi-Esfahani, the speaker said: In his message on the occasion of the martyrdom of the fourth Martyr of the Pulpit, His Holiness the Imam said: This Friday's dear Martyr of the Pulpit was one of those prominent people I have held and do hold in high regard. I knew this blessed and committed being almost 60 years. In this long period I knew the late great Martyr Ayatollah Ashrafi-Esfahani for his purity and peace of soul, confidence of heart and being devoid of self-interest and lust, and his obedience to the commands of leadership, the body of useful knowledge and proper action. At the same time he was a crusader, committed, with inner strength. In the defense of Truth he was one of those who attracted young people and was an outstanding example of "men who have been true to their covenant with God." [Quoting the Koran] His departure was a blow to Islam, and the Clergy Association mourned. May God rank him with the Martyrs of Karbala, and may he curse and despise the killers of such men. May eternal shame be upon those who took from our nation such a sound person, who never hurt a fly.

Continuing, he discussed some of the services of the Martyrs of the Pulpit. He said: Worth mentioning are the services of these martyrs in connection with the matter of the role as source of emulation, the leadership and absolute guidance of His Holiness the Imam, the removal of the shah from the throne, the removal of Bani-Sadr and declaring his inadequacy as president of the republic, Qotbzadeh's filthy behavior, his plots and after that the removal of Shari'atmadari as source of emulation, and other things. The Bakhtaran deputy discussed the elections in the provinces of Bakhtaran and Ilam. He said: These elections are absolutely void and I call upon the exalted leader, as well as the respected Council of Guardians to deal with the matter of the Bakhtaran elections as a serious one for the government and for the people of the region. "Issues of nationalism, nationalistic behavior, local issues, saying Oh People of Shah Street and Pahlavi Street, and Oh People of Kermanshah, come and vote for your own person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence from Kermanshah," are all far from the issues of the revolution and the values of the Islamic revolution. These things are not worthy of all those martyrs and fighters. The prisoners of war who have returned are saying, why are these things happening in the country? Why are these things happening in Bakhtaran?

Just as I said yesterday to some of the members of the respected Council of Guardians and the chief of the judiciary concerning the matter of interference by judges and the fact that unfortunately the Council of Guardians Supervisory Council in the Province of Bakhtaran acted unilaterally, that they were all judges and created fear and terror among the people to make the elections go their way, I ask the exalted leader to order a first-hand study of these issues, and announce what is true to the Muslim people of Iran.

Letter from the Shahr-e Babak Deputy Concerning the Failure To Hold a Sunday Public Session

Following the reading of a statement from the Majles Speakers Council and reading the names of those absent from Sunday's public session, which was printed for our dear readers yesterday, Mr. Hasan Ja'fari, the Shahr-e Babak deputy, sent a note to the Majles Speaker's Council, a copy of which was provided to RESALAT, calling for an explanation from the Majles Speaker's Council concerning the reasons for not reading the names of all those who were absent from this session.

The text of the letter is as follows:

To the Respected Majles Speaker's Council, May Almighty God Help Them

Greetings, I direct your attention to the remarks of Mr. Razavi (a member of the Majles Speaker's Council) who said each of the names of those absent from the Sunday session was investigated by the Majles Speaker's Council, with the following suppositions:

1. The existing list in the hands of Mr. Razavi shows only 55 absentees.

2. The list of those excused from the Sunday session, which is in the control room, has 23 names, giving a total of 78 persons.

3. In view of the fact that there are now 265 deputies on the Majles roster, and according to those present 128 people attended the Sunday session, where were the other 59 names? Let me say it more clearly: There were 104 persons absent Sunday, why didn't the Majles Speaker's Council observe justice, why did it announce the names of only 50-some persons, and after having said that they investigated each absence? Awaiting an answer.

Hasan Ja'fari, Shahr-e Babak deputy

Remarks by Deputy Speaker Hashemian

In his remarks at yesterday's public Majles session, Mr. Hashemian, deputy speaker of the Majles, discussed the savage crimes of usurper Israel in killing the Muslim and oppressed Palestinians. He said:

This is neither the first nor the last time Israel will commit such savage crimes. There can be no expectations of a humanitarian nature from this savage beast and American pawn. It is the duty of every Muslim and freedom-loving person to rise up and struggle to destroy usurper Israel, and remove this filthy virus and cancerous tumor from the area and the world. We will see such crimes every day. It is seeking a greater Israel, and will make the Islamic nations the targets of its attacks.

He added: Those compromising governments and organizations who have accepted the formula of keeping the usurper government of Israel have definitely committed treason against the world of Islam and the world of humanity.

The deputy speaker of the Majles noted that usurper Israel must be ejected from the house of Palestine and the world of Islam. He said: Until what time will we watch our brothers and sisters rolling in blood at the hands of these criminals of history while the Islamic nation watches? Therefore, we view the formula for Israel remaining as absolutely unacceptable from the point of view of the Islamic nations and the Koran, and the nation of Muslims, and there is no hope in the reactionary leaders and sheikhs, because they themselves are factors in Israel's remaining. These Islamic nations are the ones who must join hands against Israel and rise up to destroy it, which is our Islamic duty.

He said: It cannot be expected that a ruler who would attack Kuwait and engage in deviant behavior would stand against this corrupt germ, and likewise not only is this not to be expected from a ruler such as the regime of Fahd, traitor to the two shrines, who called the main enemy, America, into the area, indeed he desires to maintain the shameful and filthy existence of Israel.

Mr. Hashemian then added: Muslims zealous for Islam and the prophet (peace be upon him), this fearsome crime was done by America, and Israel was the agent. Zealous Muslims, arise, take action and save Islam from America, Israel, and their cohorts.

The deputy speaker of the Majles added: Oh Muslims, instead of building buildings you don't need, spend this money to help the oppressed people of Palestine. I call upon the sources of emulation to give a strong reaction to this frightening event. I call upon the seminaries to rise up, I call upon the respected government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which rightfully serves these Palestinian Muslims to declare a public mourning for this great tragedy. The Muslim nation of Iran must demonstrate in front of the United Nations Office against these Israeli crimes.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemian stressed: Muslims must form societies to make night attacks on American forces in the area and help their Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Majles Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was a report from the First Council of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning "rejecting the bill to append a note to Article 49 of the National Employment Law," and after study and discussion concerning the principle of this bill, a vote was taken and it was passed in its entirety.

During this session the proposal to amend the law on "Classification of Jobs and Providing Housing Assistance for Workers" enacted 16 April 1980 by the Majles was presented to the Majles as a single-urgency motion, and after remarks by deputies in favor and opposed to it a vote was taken on its single-urgency status and it was approved. The final item on the agenda was the bill to "Amend Articles Four and Six of the Manpower Adjustment Law" enacted by the Majles on 17 January 1988, which was considered in the First Council, but because of the lack of time its continued consideration was deferred to the next public Majles session.

The next public Majles session will be next week on Sunday morning.

Letter from More than 160 Deputies Condemning the Killing of Palestinians

Arisen nation of Islam, brave nation of Iran,

On the birth anniversary of God's dearest creation, the noble Prophet Mohammad ibn 'Abdollah, God's prayers be upon him, the stone floor of the mosque from which he ascended to heaven—the Dome of the Rock—was stained with the blood of hundreds of zealous praying Palestinians, and the world mourned. It seems that the world of Islam bears the enemy on its shoulders into captivity and slavery, must see its dear ones suffer every day, and must mourn the loss of other victims.

The free and heroic people of Iran, who know the suffering caused by aggressors and carry the memories of more costly oppression, know better than anyone that as long as dear Jerusalem is trampled by the boots of the Zionist aggressors there is no chance for any peace or tranquility.

Our nation is heir to the high thoughts of the path of a wise and revolutionary man who never forgot day or night the names of Palestine and Jerusalem, in whose heart and soul flowed a love of freedom and dignity, and who never believed for even a moment that peace and tranquility is possible next to a usurper regime like Israel. Now also, those following his school of thought, in which he said Israel must be destroyed, will never submit to this false idea that the age of coexistence and the post-cold war era has arrived. Our nation believes that as long as America is America and is the key and the director of the world of force and capital, and maintains sensitive passageways for itself in Islamic lands by means of mercenary governments under its control, one must not place hopes in international and diplomatic games, and that it is only through jihad and martyrdom that the nations may achieve their rights, and that they must choose the same path chosen by the noble nation of Iran to defend its uprising and revolution.

Our people see the fruits of their uprising and struggle in the angry flames of the martyr-seeking struggles of the Palestinian and Lebanese revolutionaries and they view the intifada as the legitimate child of the Islamic crusade and the product of the liberating school of thought of the great revolutionary of the world of Islam, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may the peace of God be upon him, and we have said many times that the crimes of the occupiers of Jerusalem, the destruction of sacred sites and Islamic shrines and changing the demographics in Palestine is the other side of the coin laid down by stupid hand-picked mercenaries in the name of security and peace in the area, and the deceitful policies of the reactionary regimes such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia to create a superficial peace and guarantee secure borders for the Zionists in the sacred land of Palestine and for world-devouring America throughout the world of Islam have had and have no result other than more rudeness and aggression every day. We assure the revolutionary children of the imam in the occupied lands and all those who keep the liberation of Jerusalem as an eternal aspiration that the Islamic Republic of Iran, the revolution to free Palestine and protect the anti-Israel uprisings and movements will not approve any compromise or indulgence that preserves the security and interest of Israel, and it will not sanction or facilitate any policy that strengthens or allows to grow the compromising faction in the region.

The tormented and heroic nation of Iran, by guarding reverence for the blood of the dear ones of Palestine and the martyrs of Islam at the Dome of the Rock Mosque and by holding splendid ceremonies, will show again its unbreakable tie with the aspirations of Palestine, and it

calls the world of Islam to the heroic struggle to liberate the sacred Islamic lands from the clutches of the occupiers.

Pakistan

Government Orders Reduced Consumer Prices

BK2611135190 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 25—Minister for Industries and Interior Chaudhry Shujat Hussain here on Sunday presided over a high level meeting to review the price situation in the country.

The meeting decided to direct the provincial governments to keep an eye over the price hike and take strict action against those unscrupulous elements who were involved in hoarding and profiteering.

The Utility Stores Corporation was directed to provide relief to the consumers by further reducing the prices of essential consumer items by an average of five per cent. This reduction in the price of essential consumer items which will be over and above the present reduced prices prevalent at the Utility Stores throughout the country, would be effective from December 1.

The Minister for Industries directed that the present network of utility stores be increased from 438 to 600 stores in the near future.

He also directed that price list should be displayed at all the Utility Stores.

The industries minister said that the present elected government was fully conscious of the difficulties faced by the people as a result of increase in oil prices. He said it was the earnest desire of the government that all out efforts should be made to minimise the effects of price hike to the possible extent. The decrease in the prices of essential items, the minister said, would surely dispel the propaganda being unleased by the anti state elements that the increase in oil prices had paved the way for the increase in the prices of items of daily use.

National Refinery Increases Processing

BK2611115290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The refining capacity of the National Refinery has increased from 50,000 barrels to 65,000 barrels per day. The refining of local crude has also increased from 10,000 to 16,000 barrels.

Staff Chief Says Army Better Equipped

BK2511153690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Chief of Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg visited several units of the Lahore garrison today. Addressing soldiers there, he said the Pakistani Army is now equipped with better weapons and is better trained than ever before, and its morale is very high. The Army is not only capable of defending the country's borders, but also possesses the capability to launch a major operation to achieve a large objective, he added.

Mujahidin Rule Out Najibullah-King Meeting

BK2111014090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2242 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 20 (AFP)—Pakistan-based political moderates representing the Afghan resistance ruled out Tuesday any peace-seeking meeting between President Najibullah and the country's former king in exile in Rome.

The mujahidin moderates, who support Zahir Shah, were reacting to the surprise revelation Monday that Mr. Najibullah was holding secret negotiations in Geneva with the mujahidin in an effort to end the Afghan civil war. They also ruled out any solution to the conflict involving the Afghan president, who is associated with the Soviet occupation of the country.

"It is difficult to make an agreement with him," Azim Nasir Zia, spokesman for the Afghan Islamic National Front, a small group lead by Pir Sayyid Gaylani that maintains semi-permanent contact with Zahir Shah.

Naim Majruh, head of the Afghan Information Centre here and a liberal intellectual refugee here, said Mr. Najibullah's survival is at stake and he is attempting through mediators to pursuade Zahir Shah to return home.

Convinced that the Soviets will soon let go of Mr. Najibullah, the Afghan moderates speak of a "third route" that will allow Afghans in exile in the West to assume power in Kabul in the runup to elections supervised by the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization.

Mr. Majruh, the son of an Afghan poet assassinated here, is optimistic about a solution that excludes the "radicals," primarily the fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and "between 3,000 and 4,000 communists" allied with Mr. Najibullah. "These people must go," he said.

No official infomation was available about the Najibullah-mujahidin talks. Sources in Kabul said the president was seeking contact with Zahir Shah.

Sources here said it was possible that Mr. Najibullah, meeting with intellectuals or people prominent in the former Afghan Government who are now living in Europe, could deliver messages from the former king.

Mujahidin Leaders Deny Contact With Najibullah

BK2211013690 Hong Kong AFP in English 2253 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 21 (AFP)—Two pro-Western leaders of the Afghan resistance movement categorically denied Wednesday that the mujahidin was having anything to do with Afghan President Najibullah at supposed peace talks in Geneva.

The leaders, quoted by the rebel news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] monitored here, called Mr. Najibullah a "killer of the people of Afghanistan."

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi and Sayyed Gaylani, leaders of two small parties with links to former King Zahir Shah, denied through the agency that the mujahidin was having any contact—direct or indirect—with Mr. Najibullah.

In a press conference Wednesday in Geneva, Mr. Najibullah refused to reveal the identity of the members of the resistance with whom he was meeting.

Mr. Mojaddedi, leader of the National Liberation Front, is on a visit to Iran and Mr. Gaylani, head of the National Islamic Front, is undergoing "medical treatment" in London, resistance sources in Pakistan said.

A number of mujahidin representatives believe Mr. Najibullah went to Switzerland in an attempt to widen dissent within the resistance, which has a number of factions, before he is ousted from power by a settlement to the conflict.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Sends Message to Thatcher

BK2811120790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa, in a message to Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, says it is with the sense of personal sadness that he learns of her decision last week to give up the leadership of her party and government, which she has served with such honor and distinction during the past 11 years.

The president notes that he considers it his duty at this juncture to let Mrs. Thatcher know both in personal way and as well as government how much we have appreciated her constant encouragement and support to Sri Lanka during this period.

He recalled their discussion some years ago, when he was seeking to persuade the British Government to help Sri Lanka with a contribution to the accelerated Mahaveli program and her decisive action in providing a 100 million pounds for the Victoria project earlier earmarked by the previous Labor government. The president said that this enabled Sri Lanka to make an early start on the Mahaveli scheme, which has transformed the lives of many thousands of his people. The Victoria project will be a lasting monument of the deep affection of the British people for our people and a testimony to Mrs. Thatcher's personal support for Sri Lanka.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa also recalled his first meeting with Mrs. Thatcher at the Conservative Party conference in (?Coylton) in 1975, when she made clear a total commitment to the democratic traditions and her faith in the relevance and validity of a truly free economy for a country.

In his message, the president pointed out that in Sri Lanka we too have been engaged in the task of restructuring the political and economic systems to make them more meaningful. He highlighted the Janasaviya and other programs aimed at poverty alleviation. The president expressed deep appreciation of the understanding and support of Mrs. Thatcher to our endevors saying that it has given us encouragement and strength to move forward facing tremendous challenges.

The president also extended the personal good wishes of his family to Mrs. Thatcher and her family.

Soldiers Kill Six in Mankulam Fighting

Wijeratne Meets Press

BK2811080790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0708 GMT 28 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Of 299 soldiers, including 11 officers, 273 fought their way out of the Mankulam camp after it came under LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attack on 22-23 November.

Cabinet Spokesman and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne addressing the media at today's post cabinet news briefing said that soldiers while on their way out killed six LTTE terrorists.

He said the soldiers had split into three sections. One of these had been spotted by aircraft and rescued. They were now in the Vavuniya camp. Among them was the commandant of Mankulam camp, Major Daulagala.

The LTTE had brought in about 1,800 of its cadres for this attack. They had used weapons from machine guns to mortars.

He said LTTE radio intercepts revealed that 196 LTTE terrorists had been killed in this battle.

In answer to a question, Mr. Wijeratne said that air support was given but due to very bad weather conditions, the cover was not effective enough.

In answer to a question, Mr. Wijeratne said the troops, who left the camp carried their weapons with them. The

heavy ones which could not be carried were destroyed by the troops before they moved out.

Mr. Wijeratne said that the situation was not as bad as earlier visualized.

He said that the correct figures of the casualties would be given when all other survivors reached the Vavuniya camp.

Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's news briefing were Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, Minister of Industries, Science and Technology; Mr. A.J. Ranasinghe, Minister of State for Information; General Cyril Ranatunge, Secretary, Ministry of Defence; and Air Marshal Walter Fernando, Secretary, Minister of State for Defence.

Military Examines Situation

BK2811100390 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English GMT 0649 GMT 28 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Military sources in Colombo yesterday were trying to ascertain the actual situation in Mankulam. One top officer said "the situation is not at all clear, as yet".

About 90 soldiers were reported to have reached to safety of Vavuniya's Wanni Brigade Headquarters and several more had been picked up by helicopters searching the jungle areas for servicemen who had managed to break out of Mankulam camp.

The weather continued to be bad up to last afternoon. The authorities were hopeful that more of the Mankulam contingent would link up with their mates at Vavuniya.

Air Force sources were unable to say how many had been airlifted between Mankulam and Vavuniya. They too, did not have confirmed details.

The breakdown in communications between Mankulam and Colombo has seriously affected the relay of information, these sources said. However, a team of high ranking officers from the security forces was flown to the Wanni last morning, to make an assessment.

Defence sources estimate that over 200 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Tigers have been killed in the past few days. They were unable to say what troops casualties were.

Defence Ministry sources also said it would be releasing whatever information they had later in the day, when the Wanni team returned to Colombo with an on-the-spot report.